

BILLIE JEAN KING CUP BY BNP PARIBAS FINALS 2021

6 NOVEMBER – FINAL PREVIEW NOTES

Billie Jean King Cup Final (1600 CET)

Centre Court Russian Tennis Federation v Switzerland

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On court today:

- The Russian Tennis Federation team are back in a Billie Jean King Cup final for the first time in 6 years – and, coincidentally, they will contest this final in the same arena as their last appearance, having fallen to Czech Republic in the title match here in 2015. RTF are bidding to add to their haul of 4 Billie Jean King Cup titles, which were all won during a 5-year period between 2004 and 2008. Captain Igor Andreev has the good fortune of having a squad consisting entirely of Top 40 players and the team have been in fine form so far this week, with 4 of the 5 members recording at least one victory. Particularly impressive has been the form of go-to doubles option Veronika Kudermetova and Liudmila Samsonova, who have won all 3 matches they have played this week despite never competing together before – which will mean that the RTF team should be full of confidence should this tie go the distance.
- Switzerland backed up their superb defeat of host nation Czech Republic on Thursday with a dominant display against Australia in the semi-finals, with Olympic champion Belinda Bencic bidding to earn another major honour in her nation's colours today. Bencic has won all 4 matches she has played this week, with excellent support provided by both Viktorija Golubic and Jil Teichmann. Success for the Swiss team today will see them win their first Billie Jean King Cup title and become the 12th nation to lift the famous trophy. They will also become the first new champion since Italy won their first title in 2006. The team are contesting just their 2nd final, with Martina Hingis and Patty Schnyder having fallen in a deciding doubles match against Spain in 1998. Captain Heinz Guenthardt will hope his team can go one better this year.

Knockout Stages



Semi-final results

Russian Tennis Federation defeated USA 2-1

Liudmila Samsonova (RTF) d. Sloane Stephens (USA) 1-6 6-4 6-3

Danielle Collins (USA) d. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RTF) 6-7(9) 7-6(2) 6-2

Veronika Kudermetova/Liudmila Samsonova (RTF) d. Shelby Rogers/CoCo Vandeweghe (USA) 6-3 6-3

Switzerland defeated Australia 2-0

Jil Teichmann (SUI) d. Storm Sanders (AUS) 6-0 6-3

Belinda Bencic (SUI) d. Ajla Tomljanovic (AUS) 6-3 6-2

Ellen Perez/Storm Sanders (AUS) v Viktorija Golubic/Stefanie Voegele (SUI) – not played

Group stage results

Group A

Canada defeated France 2-1

Francoise Abanda (CAN) d. Fiona Ferro (FRA) 4-6 6-4 6-4

Alize Cornet (FRA) d. Rebecca Marino (CAN) 6-4 7-6(5)

Gabriela Dabrowski/Rebecca Marino (CAN) d. Clara Burel/Alize Cornet (FRA) 6-3 7-6(6)

Russian Tennis Federation defeated Canada 3-0

Daria Kasatkina (RTF) d. Carol Zhao (CAN) 6-3 6-1

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RTF) d. Rebecca Marino (CAN) 6-4 4-6 6-2

Veronika Kudermetova/Liudmila Samsonova (RTF) d. Gabriela Dabrowski/Rebecca Marino (CAN) 6-3 6-1

Russian Tennis Federation defeated France 2-1

Clara Burel (FRA) d. Ekaterina Alexandrova (RTF) 3-6 6-4 6-3

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RTF) d. Alize Cornet (FRA) 5-7 6-4 6-2

Veronika Kudermetova/Liudmila Samsonova (RTF) d. Clara Burel/Alize Cornet (FRA) 6-2 6-1

Final Table

Pos.	Nation	Points	Ties win-loss	Matches win-loss	Sets win-loss	Games win-loss
1.	RTF	2	2-0	5-1 (83%)	11-4 (73%)	82-51 (62%)
2.	Canada	1	1-0	2-4 (33%)	5-9 (36%)	59-76 (44%)
3.	France	0	0-2	2-4 (33%)	6-9 (40%)	67-81 (45%)

Group B

Belgium defeated Belarus 2-1

Greet Minnen (BEL) d. Iryna Shymanovich (BLR) 6-2 6-2

Elise Mertens (BEL) d. Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) 6-2 4-6 6-2

Vera Lapko/Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) d. Kirsten Flipkens/Elise Mertens (BEL) 6-4 6-3

Australia defeated Belgium 2-1

Daria Gavrilova (AUS) d. Greet Minnen (BEL) 6-4 1-6 6-4

Storm Sanders (AUS) d. Elise Mertens (BEL) 3-6 7-6(5) 6-0

Elise Mertens/Greet Minnen (BEL) d. Ellen Perez/Storm Sanders (AUS) 6-2 6-4

Australia defeated Belarus 2-1

Storm Sanders (AUS) d. Yuliya Hatouka (BLR) 6-3 6-3

Ajla Tomljanovic (AUS) d. Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) 4-6 6-2 6-3

Lidziya Marozava/Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) d. Olivia Gadecki/Ellen Perez (AUS) 6-4 6-4

FinalTable

Pos.	Nation	Points	Ties win-loss	Matches win-loss	Sets win-loss	Games win-loss
1.	Australia	2	2-0	4-2 (67%)	8-7 (53%)	71-67 (51%)
2.	Belgium	1	1-1	3-3 (50%)	8-7 (53%)	73-61 (54%)
3.	Belarus	0	0-2	2-4 (33%)	6-8 (43%)	55-71 (44%)

Group C

Spain defeated Slovakia 2-1

Viktoria Kuzmova (SVK) d. Carla Suarez Navarro (ESP) 6-2 3-6 6-3

Sara Sorribes Tormo (ESP) d. Anna Karolina Schmiedlova (SVK) 6-3 3-6 6-2

Sara Sorribes Tormo/Carla Suarez Navarro (ESP) d. Viktoria Kuzmova/Tereza Mihalikova (SVK) 4-6 6-2 [10-7]

Slovakia defeated USA 2-1

Viktoria Kuzmova (SVK) d. Shelby Rogers (USA) 6-4 6-4

Danielle Collins (USA) d. Anna Karolina Schmiedlova (SVK) 6-3 6-2

Viktoria Kuzmova/Tereza Mihalikova (SVK) d. Caroline Dolehide/CoCo Vandeweghe (USA) 6-2 6-7(5) [12-10]

USA defeated Spain 2-1

Sloane Stephens (USA) d. Nuria Parrizas-Diaz (ESP) 6-4 6-4

Danielle Collins (USA) d. Sara Sorribes Tormo (ESP) 6-1 6-0

Aliona Bolsova/Rebeka Masarova (ESP) d. Caroline Dolehide/CoCo Vandeweghe (USA) 6-3 6-4

Final Table

Pos.	Nation	Points	Ties win-loss	Matches win-loss	Sets win-loss	Games win-loss
1.	USA	1	1-1	3-3 (50%)	7-6 (54%)	60-51 (54%)
2.	Slovakia	1	1-1	3-3 (50%)	8-8 (50%)	64-66 (49%)
3.	Spain	1	1-1	3-3 (50%)	7-8 (47%)	58-65 (47%)

Group D

Czech Republic defeated Germany 2-1

Marketa Vondrousova (CZE) d. Andrea Petkovic (GER) 6-1 6-3

Angelique Kerber (GER) d. Barbora Krejckova (CZE) 6-7(5) 6-0 6-4

Lucie Hradecka/Katerina Siniakova (CZE) d. Anna-Lena Friedsam/Jule Niemeier (GER) 6-4 6-7(2) [10-8]

Switzerland defeated Germany 3-0

Viktoria Golubic (SUI) d. Andrea Petkovic (GER) 6-4 7-5

Belinda Bencic (SUI) d. Angelique Kerber (GER) 7-5 2-6 6-2

Viktoria Golubic/Jil Teichmann (SUI) d. Anna-Lena Friedsam/Nastasja Schunk (GER) 6-1 6-2

Switzerland d. Czech Republic 2-1

Marketa Vondrousova (CZE) d. Viktoria Golubic (SUI) 6-4 6-2

Belinda Bencic (SUI) d. Barbora Krejckova (CZE) 7-6(2) 6-4

Belinda Bencic/Jil Teichmann (SUI) d. Lucie Hradecka/Katerina Siniakova (CZE) 6-3 6-3

Final Table

Pos.	Nation	Points	Ties win-loss	Matches win-loss	Sets win-loss	Games win-loss
1.	Switzerland	2	2-0	5-1 (83%)	10-3 (77%)	71-53 (57%)
2.	Czech Republic	1	1-1	3-3 (50%)	7-7 (50%)	64-64 (50%)
3.	Germany	0	0-2	1-5 (17%)	4-11 (27%)	58-76 (43%)

FINAL – RUSSIAN TENNIS FEDERATION v SWITZERLAND

CENTRE COURT – 1030 CET

Head-to-head: RTF leads 2-1

1979	Quarter-final	Clay (O)	Madrid (ESP)	USSR d. Switzerland 2-1
1989	First Round	Hard (O)	Tokyo (JPN)	USSR d. Switzerland 2-0
1996	Europe/Africa Group I	Clay (O)	Murcia (ESP)	Switzerland d. Russia 2-1

The Russian Tennis Federation and Switzerland meet for the first time in 25 years today, with RTF bidding to improve their 2-1 head-to-head win-loss record against the Swiss.

Victory for RTF today will see them equal Spain in 4th place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup titles won. Should Switzerland win, they will become the 12th different nation to win the Billie Jean King Cup title and the first new champion since Italy won their first title in 2006.

Most Billie Jean King Cup titles (all time)

Nation	Titles
USA	18
Czech Republic*	11
Australia	7
Spain	5
Italy	4
Russian Tennis Federation	4
France	3
Germany	2
Belgium	1
Slovakia	1
South Africa	1

RTF	v	SWITZERLAND
7	BJK Cup Nations Ranking	15
Champions	Best Result	Runners-up
2004-05, 2007-08	First Year Played	1998
1968*	Seasons Played	1963
44*	Ties Played	56
143	Ties Win-Loss	147
106-71		82-64

*Players from RTF represented USSR from 1968 to 1991 and CIS in 1992

Russian Tennis Federation – Team Information

- [RUSSIAN TENNIS FEDERATION \(RTF\)](#) are bidding to **win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the 5th time** and equal Spain in 4th place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup titles.
- RTF are **through to the Billie Jean King Cup title for the 12th time**. In addition to their 4 titles – which were won in 2004 (d. France), 2005 (d. France), 2007 (d. Italy) and 2008 (d. Spain) – they have reached the final on a further 7 occasions, most recently in 2015, when they fell to Czech Republic in Prague.
- RTF are bidding to extend an **8-tie Billie Jean King Cup winning streak** – a run which includes their victories against Canada, France and USA here this week. The team have not lost in the competition since falling to Latvia in the 2018 World Group II play-offs.
- RTF **qualified for the Finals** after defeating Romania 3-2 in the 2020 Qualifiers in Cluj-Napoca, with Anna Blinkova/Anna Kalinskaya winning a decisive doubles match to secure RTF's place at the Finals.
- RTF players **represented USSR from 1968 to 1991**, and CIS in 1992.

- RTF are ranked No. 7 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking**. They held the No. 1 ranking from September 2005 through to April 2009.
- **Captain Igor Andreev** became captain in April 2018, taking over from Anastasia Myskina. The team lost the first tie he oversaw, a defeat against Latvia which saw the team drop to Europe/Africa Group I – but the team have won all 8 ties they have contested since then. Andreev played Davis Cup for the RTF team between 2004 and 2012, ending his career with a 14-14 overall win-loss record.

Russian Tennis Federation – Historical Information

Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Russian Tennis Federation player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Svetlana Kuznetsova	27-13
2=	Elena Dementieva	26-9
	Elena Likhovtseva	26-16
	Elena Makarova	26-12
5.	Svetlana Cherneva	22-9

Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Russian Tennis Federation player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Elena Dementieva	22-5
2.	Svetlana Kuznetsova	21-11
3.	Elena Makarova	15-6
4.	Anastasia Myskina	14-5
5.	Elena Likhovtseva	12-11

Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a Russian Tennis Federation player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Svetlana Cherneva	20-6
2.	Elena Likhovtseva	14-5
3=	Elena Makarova	11-6
	Elena Vesnina	11-5
5.	Anna Kournikova	10-2

Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a Russian Tennis Federation player

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Elena Likhovtseva	29
2.	Svetlana Cherneva	27
3.	Elena Makarova	25
4.	Svetlana Kuznetsova	19
5.	Elena Dementieva	18

NB RTF takes USSR's historical record in Billie Jean King Cup; players who represented USSR until 1991 but who represented nations other than RTF after 1991 are not displayed in these tables.

Russian Tennis Federation – 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
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova	2009	9	17	11-10	5-2
Daria Kasatkina	2016	4	6	4-1	2-2
Veronika Kudermetova	2014	3	6	0-3	3-1
Ekaterina Alexandrova	2020	1	2	2-1	0-0
Liudmila Samsonova	2021	1	3	1-0	3-0

- **ANASTASIA PAVLYUCHENKOVA**
 - **Age:** 30 (born 3 July 1991 in Samara, Russia)
 - **Rankings:** 12 (singles), 108 (doubles)
 - **2021 singles highlights:** RU Roland Garros; SF Madrid; QF Moscow; R16 US Open
 - **2021 doubles highlights:** SF Madrid, Istanbul; QF Roland Garros
 - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Pavlyuchenkova is bidding to record her 12th Billie Jean King Cup singles match-win today and equal Elena Likhovtseva in 5th place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup singles matches won by a Russian Tennis Federation player. She fell to USA's Danielle Collins during the semi-finals on Friday, which ended a 6-match winning streak in the competition. She had previously not lost a match in the competition since falling to Jelena Ostapenko in RTF's defeat to Latvia in the 2018 World Group II play-offs, and won her first 2 matches here this week, defeating both Canada's Rebecca Marino and France's Alize Cornet in 3 sets this week.

- **DARIA KASATKINA**
 - **Age:** 24 (born 7 May 1997 in Togliatty, Russia)
 - **Rankings:** 28 (singles), 284 (doubles)
 - **2021 singles highlights:** Won Melbourne 4, St Petersburg; RU Birmingham, San Jose; QF Eastbourne, Cleveland
 - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Kasatkina has won 4 of the 5 Billie Jean King Cup singles matches she has contested – including the only match she has contested so far this week, against Canada's Carol Zhao. Her only singles defeat in the competition came against Victoria Azarenka during RTF's 2016 World Group Play-off defeat to Belarus. She was a member of the Russian team which won the Junior Billie Jean King Cup title in 2013.

- **VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA**
 - **Age:** 24 (born 24 April 1997 in Kazan, Russia)
 - **Rankings:** 31 (singles), 11 (doubles)
 - **2021 singles highlights:** Won Charleston; RU Abu Dhabi; SF Istanbul; QF St Petersburg
 - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Istanbul; RU Wimbledon, Indian Wells; SF Melbourne 1, Dubai, Berlin, Montreal
 - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Kudermetova recorded her first Billie Jean King Cup match-wins this week, partnering Samsonova to doubles victories over Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski/Marino, France's Clara Burel/Cornet and USA's Shelby Rogers/CoCo Vandeweghe. Prior to this week, she had made 3 appearances in the competition and lost all 4 matches she had played – including both singles matches she contested during RTF's victory over Romania in the 2020 Qualifiers, falling to both Ana Bogdan and Jaqueline Adina Cristian. She was a member of the Russian team which won the Junior Billie Jean King Cup title in 2013.

- **EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA**
 - **Age:** 26 (born 15 November 1994 in Chelyabinsk, Russia)
 - **Rankings:** 32 (singles), 146 (doubles)
 - **2021 singles highlights:** RU Moscow; SF Melbourne 1; QF St Petersburg, Stuttgart, Strasbourg, Berlin
 - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Alexandrova made her debut in the competition during RTF's victory over Romania in the 2020 Qualifiers, and won both matches she contested – defeating both Elena Gabriela Ruse and Ana Bogdan. She lost the only match she has contested so far this week, falling to Burel in the opening match of RTF's victory over France on Wednesday.

- **LIUDMILA SAMSONOVA**
 - **Age:** 22 (born 11 November 1998 in Olenegorsk, Russia)
 - **Rankings:** 40 (singles), 1342 (doubles)
 - **2021 singles highlights:** Won Berlin; SF Luxembourg, Courmayeur; R16 Wimbledon
 - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Samsonova made her Billie Jean King Cup debut this week, partnering Kudermetova to doubles victories over Canada's Dabrowski/Marino and France's Burel/Cornet in the group stages. She then made her first appearance in singles during RTF's win against USA in the semi-finals – she defeated Sloane Stephens in the opening match of the tie before partnering Kudermetova to victory in the decisive doubles match against Rogers/Vandeweghe.

Switzerland – Team Information

- **SWITZERLAND** are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the first time. They would become the 12th different nation to win the title and the first new champion since Italy won their first Billie Jean King Cup title in 2006. They are one of 3 nations – alongside Belarus and Canada – competing at the Finals to have never won the Billie Jean King Cup title.

Switzerland are **through to the Billie Jean King Cup finals for the 2nd time**. They finished runners-up in 1998, with the team of Martina Hingis and Patty Schnyder leading Spain 2-1 after two singles wins for Hingis, before slipping to defeat against Conchita Martinez/Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the deciding doubles match.

- Switzerland **qualified for the Finals** after defeating Canada 3-1 in the 2020 Qualifiers in Biel, with Jil Teichmann defeating Gabriela Dabrowski to secure Switzerland's place at the Finals. Prior to the Qualifiers, Switzerland had won just one of their last 5 ties in the competition.
- Switzerland ended a **4-tie losing streak in ties played away from home** by defeating Germany in their first tie here on Tuesday. They had lost their previous 4 ties played outside Switzerland – falling to Belarus in Minsk (2017), Czech Republic in Prague (2018), Romania in Cluj-Napoca (2018) and USA in San Antonio (2019).
- Switzerland are ranked No. 15 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking** – they reached their best ranking of No. 4 in February 2017.
- **Captain Heinz Guenthardt** took over as captain from Christiane Jolissaint in April 2012. He has led the team in 19 ties since then, recording a 12-7 win-loss record. He holds the Swiss Davis Cup record for most ties played, having competed in 30 ties between 1976 and 1990. He had a 36-28 overall win-loss record as a Davis Cup player.

Switzerland – Historical Information

Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Swiss player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Patty Schnyder	50-23
2.	Petra Delhees-Jauch	33-15
3.	Martina Hingis	29-7
4.	Timea Bacsinszky	28-25
5.	Emmanuelle Gagliardi	23-9

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

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Patty Schnyder	33-17
2.	Timea Bacsinszky	20-19
3.	Petra Delhees-Jauch	19-6
4.	Martina Hingis	18-4
5.	Belinda Bencic	13-5

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

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Patty Schnyder	17-6
2.	Petra Delhees-Jauch	14-9
3=	Emmanuelle Gagliardi	13-2
	Christiane Jolissaint	13-10
5.	Martina Hingis	11-3

Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a Swiss player

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Patty Schnyder	38
2=	Timea Bacsinszky	27
	Petra Delhees-Jauch	27
4.	Emanuela Zardo	26
5.	Christiane Jolissaint	24

Switzerland – 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
Belinda Bencic	2012	8	14	13-5	5-2
Jil Teichmann	2018	2	6	3-0	4-0
Viktorija Golubic	2014	8	11	5-6	4-2
Stefanie Voegelé	2005	9	15	5-11	1-4

- **BELINDA BENCIC**

- **Age:** 24 (born 10 March 1997 in Flawil, Switzerland)
- **Rankings:** 17 (singles), 155 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** Won Tokyo Olympics; RU Adelaide, Berlin; QF Madrid, Cincinnati, US Open, Luxembourg, Ostrava, Chicago
- **2021 doubles highlights:** RU Tokyo Olympics; SF Madrid
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Bencic claimed sole ownership of 5th place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Swiss player – ahead of Myriam Casanova, Emmanuelle Gagliardi and Emanuela Zardo – by defeating Angelique Kerber for her 11th singles match-win in the competition during Switzerland's victory over Germany on Tuesday. She has followed it up with 2 further singles victories this week, defeating Czech Republic's Barbora Krejčíková and Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic. She teamed up with Teichmann to win the doubles match during the group stage victory over Czech Republic on Thursday, defeating Lucie Hradecká/Katerina Siniakova in straight sets. It was her 2nd victory in a Billie Jean King Cup decisive doubles match, having also won a decider alongside Hingis in Switzerland's 2016 World Group first round victory over Germany.

- **JIL TEICHMANN**

- **Age:** 24 (born 15 July 1997 in Barcelona, Spain)
- **Rankings:** 39 (singles), 106 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** RU Cincinnati; SF Adelaide, Dubai; QF Melbourne 4, Ostrava
- **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Hamburg; SF Madrid
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Teichmann has maintained her perfect record in Billie Jean King Cup matches this week, winning all 3 matches she has contested – including her first experience of a decisive doubles match, partnering Bencic to victory over Czech Republic's Hradecká/Siniakova on Thursday. She also won the only singles match she has contested this week, defeating Storm Sanders in Switzerland's semi-final victory against Australia on Friday. She made her Billie Jean King Cup debut in the Qualifiers last year, recording singles victories against both Leylah Fernandez and Gabriela Dabrowski during Switzerland's victory over Canada.

- **VIKTORIJA GOLUBIC**

- **Age:** 29 (born 16 October 1992 in Zurich, Switzerland)
- **Rankings:** 45 (singles), 145 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** RU Lyon, Monterrey; QF Wimbledon, Eastbourne
- **2021 doubles highlights:** RU Tokyo Olympics
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Golubic has won 2 of the 3 matches she has played so far this week. She won both matches she contested during Switzerland's victory over Germany on Tuesday – defeating Andrea Petkovic in singles and partnering Teichmann to victory against Anna-Lena Friedsam/Nastasja Schunk in doubles – but fell in the opening match of Switzerland's victory over Czech Republic, losing to Marketa Vondroušová in straight sets.

- **STEFANIE VOEGELE**
 - **Age:** 31 (born 10 March 1990 in Leuggern, Switzerland)
 - **Rankings:** 116 (singles), 964 (doubles)
 - **2021 singles highlights:** QF Bogota
 - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Voegele returned to the team for the first time since 2014 in Switzerland's World Group II first round victory against Italy in 2019, winning the dead doubles match alongside Bacsinszky. She was also nominated for Switzerland's victory over Canada in the 2020 Qualifiers but did not play a match. She has not won a singles match in the competition since defeating Alison van Uytvanck in Switzerland's 2013 World Group II first round victory against Belgium.