



SOBEYS STADIUM
1 Shoreham Dr, Suite 100
Toronto ON M3N 3A6
T. 416.665.9777

STADE IGA
285, rue Gary-Carter
Montréal QC H2R 2W1
T. 514.273.1234

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERNANDEZ AND MARINO TO OPEN FOR TEAM CANADA AGAINST BELGIUM AT BILLIE JEAN KING CUP QUALIFIERS TIE IN VANCOUVER

Fernandez takes on Wickmayer in first match on Friday

Vancouver, BC, April 13, 2023 – The official draw for the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers tie between Team Canada presented by Sobeys and Belgium was held on Thursday to determine the matchups for this weekend's action. The teams will face off on the indoor hard courts at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver, British Columbia on April 14 and 15 with a place in the Billie Jean King Cup Finals on the line.

Leylah Annie Fernandez (Laval, QC) and Rebecca Marino (Vancouver, BC) were selected by Canada captain Heidi El Tabakh to play singles, while Belgium captain Wim Fissette nominated Ysaline Bonaventure and Yanina Wickmayer.

"It's great to be back here [in Vancouver]," El Tabakh said in Canada's post-draw press conference. "We had an incredible experience last year and it feels good to be on home soil again. Our goal is to have the same outcome. It's a nice advantage to be here as we've played on the same court, we know how it feels. Regardless, we're going to be ready to go."

"I played her [Bonaventure] earlier this year, it didn't go my way but I learned a lot from that match," Fernandez said about meeting Bonaventure for the second time this year. "Now I know her game, I know her patterns and it'll be an exciting matchup."

This weekend's tie marks the second year in a row Team Canada has hosted a Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver having beaten Latvia 4-0 there in 2022.

"For me, playing in Vancouver, my hometown, and for the Canadians playing in our home country, there is a little added pressure to perform but I think we use it as motivation," Marino commented. "Especially being in the same stadium as last year, we know exactly what the feeling will be like going on court. So, I think it's definitely a positive factor towards us and it adds to our excitement of getting out, competing and representing Canada."

In doubles, Fernandez will team up with No. 7 doubles player in the world, Gabriela Dabrowski (Ottawa, ON), to face Belgian duo Kirsten Flipkens and Greet Minnen.

"The Belgian team has a lot of depth and you could argue that their 'A' team is not even here right now and yet they still have an amazing calibre of players," Dabrowski said. "So, I think if it does go to the decider doubles, it'll be very, very challenging no matter who's playing. I know Kirsten [Flipkens] has a ton of experience, I've played her so many times, always very tricky. I've also played against Greet [Minnen] once and I think Yanina [Wickmayer] a couple of times too and won and lost. If it's Ysaline [Bonaventure], I can't remember the last time I played her but she's a very good player. So, I think it'll be very tough but



SOBEYS STADIUM
1 Shoreham Dr, Suite 100
Toronto ON M3N 3A6
T. 416.665.9777

STADE IGA
285, rue Gary-Carter
Montréal QC H2R 2W1
T. 514.273.1234

we'll do our homework and some doubles strategy will come out of that and hopefully it goes in our favour.”

The first singles match will get underway at 4 p.m. local time on Friday, April 14 and will be followed by the second singles rubber. The last two singles matches will get underway at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 15 and will be followed by the doubles match. All matches are best of three sets.

Secure your seat now and cheer on Team Canada in the World Cup of Women's Tennis. Tickets are available to purchase [here](#).

Fans can watch the Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers tie between Team Canada and Belgium live on [SN NOW](#), Sportsnet's premium streaming platform and free to Sportsnet cable subscribers, as well as OLN and TVA Sports 2.

MATCH SCHEDULE

Friday, April 14, 2023

Leylah Annie Fernandez vs. Yanina Wickmayer – 4 p.m. Pacific
Followed by Rebecca Marino vs. Ysaline Bonaventure

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Leylah Annie Fernandez vs. Ysaline Bonaventure – 2 p.m. Pacific
Followed by Rebecca Marino vs. Yanina Wickmayer
Followed by Gabriela Dabrowski / Leylah Annie Fernandez vs. Kirsten Flipkens / Greet Minnen

*If tie is decided following the third singles rubber, the fourth singles rubber may not be contested and the doubles rubber will follow.

About Tennis Canada

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport association with a mission to lead the growth, development and promotion of tennis in Canada and a vision to be a world-leading tennis nation. We value teamwork, passion, integrity, innovation and excellence. Tennis Canada owns and operates the premier National Bank Open presented by Rogers WTA and ATP Tour events, four professional ATP and ITF sanctioned events and financially supports four other professional tournaments in Canada. Tennis Canada operates junior national training centres/programs in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Tennis Canada is a proud member of the International Tennis Federation, the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and serves to administer, sponsor and select the teams for Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, the Olympic and Paralympic Games and all wheelchair, junior and senior national teams. Tennis Canada invests its surplus into tennis development. For more information on Tennis Canada please visit our Web site at: www.tenniscanada.com and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

-30-

Media Contacts

Oliver Wheeler



SOBEYS STADIUM
1 Shoreham Dr, Suite 100
Toronto ON M3N 3A6
T. 416.665.9777

STADE IGA
285, rue Gary-Carter
Montréal QC H2R 2W1
T. 514.273.1234

Manager, Communications
owheeler@tenniscanada.com
+1 (647) 458-4005