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CANADA SWEEPS HOST SPAIN IN OPENING TIE AT BILLIE JEAN KING CUP FINALS

Stakusic, Fernandez win singles matchups as Dabrowski, Bouchard take doubles

[SEVILLE, SPAIN] November 8, 2023 – On Wednesday, Team Canada presented by Sobeys opened the Billie Jean King Cup Finals by Gainbridge with a clean sweep against host nation Spain, not dropping a single set in all three matches. Playing out of Estadio de la Cartuja in Sevilla, Spain, the Canadian squad made up of Leylah Annie Fernandez, Gabriela Dabrowski, Rebecca Marino, Marina Stakusic Eugenie Bouchard, and team captain Heidi El Tabakh, currently sits atop of Group C alongside Poland and Spain.

Stakusic (No. 258) made her Billie Jean King Cup debut in the team's opening match, making a statement by quickly defeating her opponent Rebeka Masarova (No. 65) 6-3, 6-1, marking the highest ranked win of the 18-year-old's career and first against a top-75 opponent. Stakusic kept calm and collected, saving five of five break points while making just nine unforced errors compared to Masarova's 33.

"I think definitely the support from all the Canadians really helped me today. It motivated me to just give my best and stay composed the whole match," said Stakusic post-match. "I think my composure was a big, was really important for me today, and I'm glad I was able to stay calm during the match."

Fernandez (No. 35) followed up Stakusic's gutsy performance with a tense, nearly three-hour long match where she battled hard to pull out a 7-6(8), 7-6(7) victory against Sara Sorribes Tormo (No. 50). Fernandez saved an impressive 10 of 14 break points and managed to convert four of eight break points. With the victory, Fernandez improved her record at the Billie Jean King Cup to 12-3.

"I'm just super happy with the way that Team Canada has performed today, with the way we were able to maintain under control in some tough moments," Fernandez said post-match. "We were just trying to put on a good show, and the cheering section, they were amazing, especially on tough moments for my match. I was just extremely happy with the way that it's going so far."

After a gruelling match, El Tabakh opted to substitute Bouchard in for Fernandez in the third match to play doubles alongside Dabrowski. The pair quickly got acclimated, winning the first set 6-3 before squeaking out a tight 7-5 win against Masarova and Sorribes Tormo in the second set to conclude the tie. The win marked the 14th of Bouchard's career and the 13th of Dabrowski's.

Next up, Team Canada will take on Poland on Thursday, November 9 (10:00 a.m. ET) and will be broadcast live in Canada on Sportsnet One and TVA Sports.

About the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge

The Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge is the women's World Cup of Tennis. Previously known as the Fed Cup, it is the largest annual international team competition in women's sport, with 134 nations having



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entered in 2023. The competition was founded in 1963 and is in its 60th year. Since its 2020 re-brand, the competition has continued to develop as a bold, powerful platform for the growth of women's tennis across the world. It was broadcast in an unprecedented 196 territories in 2022, and a record 134 nations have entered this year. The ITF also welcomed new title sponsor Gainbridge in 2022, joining Microsoft and Magellan as the global sponsors of the event. Tory Burch also became apparel partner in 2022, while Iberdrola and Franklin Templeton became official partners in 2023.

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

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