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## **CANADA MOVES ON TO THE BILLIE JEAN KING CUP SEMI-FINALS**

*The squad finishes first in Group C with a 3–0 win over Poland in the round-robin event.*

**Seville, Spain, November 9, 2023** – Team Canada presented by Sobeys had a brilliant outing today to conclude the round-robin event of the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals, defeating Poland 3–0. With the win, the squad finishes first in Group C and advances to the semi-finals of the prestigious competition for the second time in the nation’s history and the first time since 1988.

Again today, captain Heidi El Tabakh designated Marina Stakusic (Mississauga, ON) and Leylah Fernandez (Laval, QC) for the singles matches and Eugenie Bouchard (Montréal, QC) and Gabriela Dabrowski (Ottawa, ON) for the doubles bout. Poland’s captain Dawid Celt chose Magdalena Frech and Magda Linette and the team of Weronika Falkowska and Katarzyna Kawa.

Just a day after posting her very first Billie Jean King Cup win, Marina Stakusic set her sights on a repeat performance in her opening match against World No.63 Magdalena Frech. But today’s contest proved to be much more of an uphill battle: the 18-year-old dropped the first set 6-4 and then quickly found herself down 2-4. Still, she showed tremendous maturity and orchestrated a sensational comeback to close out the second set 7-5 and force a third. Building on her momentum, she never looked back and sealed the deal at the close of a nearly three-hour (2:51) battle (4-6, 7-5, 6-3).

“I’m feeling amazing,” Marina Stakusic said afterwards. “This week, so far, has been one of the most amazing experiences that I’ve had. I’m just so happy that I was able to fight today and find a way to pull it off and give Canada the win.”

In the day’s second match, Leylah Fernandez, who battled on the court for over three hours yesterday, wasted no time knocking out Magda Linette in two quick sets (6-2, 6-3). The Quebecer dominated from beginning to end, generating 28 winners versus 10 for Linette, and extended her Billie Jean King Cup winning streak to 13 wins in 14 matches.

“It means the world to me,” Leylah Fernandez said post match. “I’m extremely proud to be representing Canada. To be in the semi-finals of the World Cup of tennis means that Canada is going up in tennis and just keeps improving. Now, we want what the men were able to do, which was win the Davis Cup. For us, winning the Billie Jean King Cup would be a dream.”

For the doubles face-off, El Tabakh once again had Gabriela Dabrowski partner with Eugenie Bouchard instead of Fernandez. On the heels of Leylah’s triumph, it took the Canadians just 58 minutes to confirm their 6-2, 6-3 victory over Weronika Falkowska and Katarzyna Kawa and complete back-to-back sweeps in Seville.

“This definitely feels great [to achieve this feat],” El Tabakh said post match. “I’m so, so proud of my girls and of everyone. However, I know the girls are still hungry, and the ultimate goal for us is to win Billie Jean King Cup. I believe in my girls, and I believe that we can do it.”



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Canada must now wait until tomorrow to find who of the United States or Czechia it will face in the semi-finals. Both countries rose above Switzerland and are tied in their group. Madison Keys, Danielle Collins, Sofia Kenin, Sloane Stephens and Taylor Townsend are fighting for the US, while the Czech delegation is relying on Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, Karolina Muchova, Barbora Krejckikova, Linda Noskova and Katerina Siniakova.

### **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 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](http://www.tenniscanada.com) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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