



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

CANADA FALLS TO GREAT BRITAIN IN BILLIE JEAN KING CUP QUARTER-FINALS

The Canadian team will now play in the 2025 Qualifiers in April

[TORONTO, ON] November 17, 2024 – On Sunday, Team Canada fell in the quarter-finals of the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals following a 2-0 loss to Great Britain. The Canadian squad, made up of Leylah Annie Fernandez, Rebecca Marino, Gabriela Dabrowski, Marina Stakusic, and captain Heidi El Tabakh, were playing their first tie in the Finals after receiving a bye for winning the title in 2023.

First up for Team Canada was Marino, who faced world No. 58 Emma Raducanu. The Vancouverite, who is ranked No. 103 in the world, got off to a slow start in what was her first Billie Jean King Cup match in over a year and a half. After falling 6-0 in the opening set, she managed to bounce back, winning her first two service games to love. Marino also created seven break point chances in the set but wasn't able to convert. In the 11th game, the 22-year-old Brit broke Marino, putting an end to the match on her serve in the 12th game.

"I think getting into the second set I kind of was able to get myself back into it by relaxing a little bit more, and I felt like I had a lot of opportunities," said Marino. "She [Raducanu] did a really good job of stepping up when the moments mattered. It was really anyone's in that second set. I'm proud of how I was able to finish that match and how I played in that second set."

Canada still had reason for optimism with their backs against the wall as Fernandez came out for the must-win second singles match on an eight-match winning streak in Billie Jean King Cup action. However, her streak would end against Great Britain's top player, Katie Boulter, the world No. 24. Fernandez, No. 31 in the world, was fighting to keep the ball consistently in play and didn't have the answer to Boulter's heavy hitting. In the second set, Fernandez managed to make it interesting with a late surge but ultimately was unable to mount a full comeback, falling 6-2, 6-4.

"From the first point all the way to the last I always try to keep fighting," said Fernandez. "I don't try to give up on any occasion. You know, in the beginning of the match, I was doing well to keep it close, but it's just a few important points where Katie [Boulter] found a way to hit a winner or force a mistake from my end. Then in the second set it was kind of the same story in the beginning. I think near the end of the second set, near the end of the match, I started putting more balls in, and that kind of helped, but it was a little too late for us."

"I'm always proud of my girls," said El Tabakh. "I know they went out there to win, and I know they played their hearts out. You know what? We can't win them all, and I think credit to Team Great Britain, because I think both girls played complete matches today."

Although it's the end of the road for Team Canada at this year's Billie Jean King Cup Finals, the men's team has yet to play their first tie at the Davis Cup Final 8. Viewers can watch Team Canada's ties for free on [CBC Gem](#), [cbcsports.ca](#), the CBC Sports app, and CBC Sports' official [YouTube channel](#). The



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ties will also be available in French, as [TVA Sports](#) and [TVA Sports Direct](#) will be showing Canada's matchups, as well as all semi-finals and finals.

About Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge

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 a record 138 nations competing in 2024. Champions Canada took home an unprecedented \$2.4m for their triumph at the 2023 Finals in Seville. Global partners of the event are Gainbridge, e.l.f. Beauty, Magellan, Microsoft, Tory Burch and Stake.

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 website at: www.tenniscanada.com and follow us on LinkedIn, X, Facebook and Instagram.

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Media Contacts

Patrick Steski
Coordinator, Communications
psteski@tenniscanada.com
+1 (613) 818-6237