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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIANCA ANDREESCU AND KAYLA CROSS TO OPEN FOR TEAM CANADA AGAINST KAZAKHSTAN AT BILLIE JEAN KING CUP QUALIFIERS

Kayla Cross takes on Yulia Putintseva in the opening match on Friday

[ASTANA, KAZ] April 9, 2026 – The official draw for the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers between Team Canada and Kazakhstan took place today, setting the stage for an exciting weekend of competition. The tie will be held on the indoor clay courts of the Beeline Arena in Astana, Kazakhstan, and will consist of a best-of-five series. The winning nation will advance to the Finals in September.

Interim captain Marie-Ève Pelletier (Repentigny, QC) selected Bianca Andreescu (Mississauga, ON) and Kayla Cross (London, ON) to contest the singles matches for Canada, while Kazakhstan's captain Yuriy Schukin named Yulia Putintseva and Sonja Zhiyenbayeva as their singles representatives. Cross (No. 198) will open play on Friday against Putintseva (No. 74), followed by a matchup between Andreescu (No. 130) and Zhiyenbayeva (No. 1023).

Action continues Saturday with a doubles match featuring Canada's Ariana Arseneault (Richmond Hill, ON) and Sasha Vagramov (Port Moody, BC) against Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina and Zhibek Kulambayeva. The doubles rubber will be followed by both nations' top-ranked players, Andreescu and Putintseva. If needed, a fifth and final match will see Cross face Zhiyenbayeva.

"I know they're fierce competitors, and I know Yulia [Putintseva] very well – we've played each other a few times – so I'm not expecting anything to come easy," said Andreescu. "But our team is ready, and representing Canada is such an honour. We're all really excited to go out there and compete for our country."

"All the players are fit and ready to go – we're excited for the competition to begin," said Pelletier. "We're very happy to have Kayla Cross kick things off in her first singles match at the Billie Jean King Cup, followed by our most experienced player, Bianca Andreescu. Saturday will be a big day with three matches, so we'll be prepared and focused on recovering quickly. Our goal is to win and qualify for the Finals, and we can't wait to get started."

Play begins on Friday, April 10 at 2 p.m. local time (5 a.m. ET), and continues Saturday April 11 at 1 p.m. local time (4 a.m. ET). The tie will be broadcast by [TVA Sports](#) and livestreamed by CBC Sports on the free [CBC Gem](#) streaming service, [cbcsports.ca](#) and the [CBC Sports YouTube channel](#).

MEDIA NOTES

- Canada (No. 4) reached the Qualifiers by winning its group at the 2025 Play-offs with victories over Denmark and Mexico.
- Kazakhstan (No. 9) qualified by reaching the 2025 Finals, losing to USA in the quarter-finals.
- Canada leads the head-to-head 1-0 after a 3-2 win in Montreal in 2017.



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- The Canadian team was crowned world champions in 2023, defeating Italy 2-0 in the final.

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, it financially supports 15 other professional tournaments in Canada, as well as operating more than 60 events nationally across junior, wheelchair, university and Masters tennis categories. 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 masters tennis 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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