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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAM CANADA TIED 1-1 WITH KAZAKHSTAN AFTER DAY ONE OF BILLIE JEAN KING CUP QUALIFIERS

Saturday's doubles match is scheduled to begin at 4 a.m. ET, with the singles matches to follow

[ASTANA, KAZ] April 10, 2026 – After the first day of the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers, Team Canada is tied 1-1 with Kazakhstan following victories from Bianca Andreescu (Mississauga, ON) and Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva. The tie, played on the indoor clay courts of the Beeline Arena in Astana, Kazakhstan, consists of a best-of-five series, and will conclude tomorrow.

"We go out there to win every match, but today the result went as some may have expected, with both teams' No. 1 players winning their matches," said captain Marie-Ève Pelletier. "I'm super happy with the way Kayla [Cross] and Bianca [Andreescu] performed – they fought with their hearts. And Bianca showed her experience, playing her best tennis when it mattered most."

In the opening match, Kayla Cross (London, Ontario) made her singles debut at the Billie Jean King Cup, having previously played two doubles matches during the 2025 Qualifiers in Tokyo, Japan. The 21-year-old faced Putintseva, Kazakhstan's No. 1 and the world No. 74. Putintseva won the first set 6-3 in 30 minutes, converting both of her break points, and then took a 5-1 lead in the second set. Cross responded with her best tennis, saving four match points to level the score at 5-5, before Putintseva secured the decisive break in the 12th game to close out the match 6-3, 7-5.

"I played some great tennis and made it a really competitive match, which I'm proud of," said Cross. "I'm especially proud of the fight I showed. When I was down 5-1, having the support from my team on the side of the court really helped me keep pushing, taking it one point at a time. It would've been nice to get that second set, but the fight was really good, and I'm really proud of it."

In the second match of the day, Andreescu faced world No. 1023 Sonja Zhiyenbayeva. Ranked No. 130, Andreescu was competing in her first Billie Jean King Cup match since 2022 and made an immediate impact, breaking her 19-year-old opponent in the third game. After taking the first set, the second proved much tighter and required a tiebreak. Trailing 4-0 in the breaker, Andreescu's experience showed, as she won seven consecutive points to seal the match.

"It was definitely a tough match, but nothing surprising at this level," said Andreescu. "You expect every player to show up, so I try to stay as consistent as I can throughout the match. In this kind of environment, with the crowd behind Kazakhstan, it may have helped her in certain moments. But I'm happy I was able to produce that level of tennis today and really happy to get the win."

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.



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The tie is 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.
- 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.

-30-

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