

LTA Daily Brit Player Media Notes

Lexus Birmingham Open – Saturday, 7 June, 2025

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 1

Jessika Ponchet (WR140 – FRA) v Linda Fruhvirtova (WR152 - CZE)

Head to Head: Ponchet leads 1-0

2022 Andrezieux-Boutheon, France (ITF) Hard R16 Ponchet 61 61

JESSIKA PONCHET highlights:

- Defeated Vitalia Diatchenko [63 62](#), Brit Heather Watson [64 57 75](#), where she saved three match points, and Mingge Xu [62 64](#).
- Reached just 2nd WTA 125 semi-final, after 2022 Angers.
- Bids to reach 1st ever final above ITF level.
- 5th French woman to reach WTA 125 semi-final in 2025, after Burel, Gracheva, Jeanjean and Paquet.
- Bids to become 2nd French woman to reach WTA 125 final in 2025, after Paquet at Paris.
- Bids to become 10th French woman to reach final in WTA 125 history.
- Won 10 ITF singles titles, most recently in 2023.
- Reached final of the ITF event at Ilkley last year, falling to Rebecca Marino.
- Achieved best performance on WTA Tour this year, reaching quarter-finals at Rouen on clay in April, falling to Elena Gabriela Ruse.
- Achieved career-high ranking of No. 104 in September 2024.
- Best performance at Grand Slams was reaching round 3 at the US Open last year as a qualifier.
- Best performance at WTA 125 level is reaching semi-finals at 2022 Angers.
- Second appearance in a WTA 125 event this year and this week is first time she's won some matches – she fell in round one at St Malo in April.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

LINDA FRUHVIRTOVA highlights:

- Defeated Alexandra Eala [75 67\(5\) 61](#), Jodie Burrage [60 64](#) and Lucrezia Stefanini [64 63](#).
- Reached 2nd WTA 125 semi-final, after Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in March. Won that match so bids to reach 2nd final at this level.
- Bids to become 1st Czech to reach multiple WTA 125 finals in 2025.
- Won maiden WTA Tour title as 17-year-old at 2022 Chennai, defeating Magda Linette in the final.
- As 16-year-old reached last 16 at WTA 1000 Miami in 2022, becoming youngest to reach that stage of the tournament since Tatiana Golovin in 2004.
- Former quarter-finalist at Birmingham in 2023 when it was WTA Tour event - defeated recent Roland Garros quarter-finalist Elina Svitolina and then Bernarda Pera before falling to Barbora Krejčíková.
- Achieved career-high ranking of No. 49 in June 2023.
- Best performance at WTA 125 level is runner-up at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in March.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Court One - Match 1

Otto Virtanen (WR114 – FIN) v Brandon Holt (WR101 – USA)

Head to Head: First meeting.

OTTO VIRTANEN highlights:

- Defeated Aleksandar Vukic [76\(4\) 63](#), Marc-Andrea Huesler [63 67\(6\) 61](#) and Cameron Wong [62 75](#).
- Reached 11th ATP Challenger Tour semi-final, and 1st since Brest in October last year.
- Bids to reach 7th ATP Challenger Tour final.
- Won 6 ATP Challenger Tour titles, most recently at Brest in October last year.
- Achieved career-high ranking of No. 91 in November 2024.
- Won the 2018 Wimbledon boys' doubles title with partner Yanki Erel.
- Before this week his best result on grass was reaching quarter-finals at 2022 Surbiton.
- Played in six ATP Challenger Tour events in 2025 and won his 1st matches of year at this level this week.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

BRANDON HOLT highlights:

- Defeated James Duckworth [62 75](#), Murphy Cassone [62 62](#) and Adrian Mannarino [64 63](#).
- Reached 11th ATP Challenger Tour semi-final, and 7th of 2025, which is more than anyone else this year (note: Emilio Nava could also reach 7th semi-final Heilbronn, Germany this week).
- Bids to reach 6th ATP Challenger Tour final, and 4th of 2025, which would put him equal top of list of most finals at this level this year, along with Borna Coric, Liam Draxl and Nava (note: Nava could reach 5th final Heilbronn, Germany this week).
- Won 2 ATP Challenger titles (both this year, at Bangalore and Nonthaburi-3).
- Missed whole of grass court season last year due to injury.
- Finalist at 2015 US Open boys' doubles with partner Riley Smith.
- Currently playing at career-high ranking of No. 101.
- Son of Tracy Austin.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 2

Colton Smith (WR162 – USA) v [3] Rinky Hijikata (WR77 – AUS)

Head to Head: First meeting.

COLTON SMITH highlights:

- Defeated Yasutaka Uchiyama [62 67\(3\) 64](#), Nicolas Moreno De Alboran [63 10 ret.](#) and Lloyd Harris [63 67\(3\) 64](#).
- Reached 3rd ATP Challenger Tour semi-final, and 2nd of 2025, after Cleveland.
- Won both previous ATP Challenger Tour semi-finals, so bids to reach 3rd final at this level.
- Won one ATP Challenger title, on home soil at Cleveland in January.
- Achieved career-high ranking of No. 161 in April.
- As qualifier reached maiden ATP Tour quarter-final at Houston on clay this year, falling to compatriot Tommy Paul.
- 5-3 win-loss record against top 100 players.
- Played in 4 ATP Challenger events in 2025 with win-loss record of 10-2.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

RINKY HIJIKATA highlights:

- Defeated Billy Harris [61 36 64](#), Yosuke Watanuki [61 63](#) and Alex Bolt [76\(2\) 64](#).
- Reached 11th ATP Challenger Tour semi-final, and 1st on grass.
- Bids to reach 6th ATP Challenger Tour final, and 1st since Sydney in October last year. It would also be just his 2nd final outside Australia.
- Won doubles title at 2023 Australian Open alongside compatriot Jason Kubler.
- Won 3 ATP Challenger Tour singles titles - all on home soil – at 2022 & 2024 Playford, and at 2023 Burnie.
- Best ATP Tour result has come on grass – as lucky loser made last 4 at 2023 s'Hertogenbosch.
- Best Grand Slam result was reaching round of 16 at the 2023 US Open as a wild card, falling to Frances Tiafoe.
- Achieved career-high ranking of No. 62 in August 2024.
- Played in 4 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2025, reaching two semi-finals, at Bordeaux on clay last month and here this week. Owns 8-3 win-loss record.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Court One - Match 2

REBEKA MASAROVA highlights:

- Defeated Daria Snigur [36 62 64](#), Viktorija Golubic [62 76\(1\)](#) and Robin Montgomery [62 00 ret.](#)
- Reached 6th WTA 125 semi-final, and 3rd of 2025.
- Bids to reach 4th WTA 125 final, and 2nd of 2025, after Vic, Spain, in April.
- Only Viktorija Golubic (5) reached more WTA 125 finals amongst Swiss players. Currently joint 2nd joint in list of most WTA 125 finals amongst Swiss players, level with Belinda Bencic on 3.
- Achieved career-high ranking of No. 62 in December 2023.
- Reached one WTA Tour final, falling to Coco Gauff at 2023 Auckland.
- Won girls' singles final at 2016 Roland Garros, defeating Amanda Anisimova in final.
- Played in three WTA 125 events this year with 10-2 win-loss record.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

GREET MINNEN highlights:

- Defeated Arianne Hartono [64 62](#) and Tereza Martincova [36 76\(5\) 63](#).
- Reached 4th WTA 125 semi-final, and 1st since Charleston in March 2024.
- Bids to reach 3rd WTA final, and 1st since 2023 St Malo.
- Never reached singles final on WTA Tour, but won two doubles titles.
- Best singles performance on WTA Tour is four semi-finals, most recently at Austin in February, falling to McCartney Kessler.
- Best performance at Grand Slams is reaching round three at 2021 and 2023 US Opens (2021 as a lucky loser, 2023 as a qualifier).
- Reached two WTA 125 finals, both in 2023, at Kozierki, Poland and St Malo, France.
- Just second WTA 125 event this year – fell in round one at St Malo in April.
- Achieved career-high ranking of No. 59 in October 2023.
- Best performances on grass are reaching quarter-finals at WTA Tour event in s'Hertogenbosh in 2019 and last year. Also reached last 8 at ITF events at 2021 Nottingham and 2024 Surbiton in 2024.
- WTA biography [HERE](#)

KIMBERLY BIRRELL highlights:

- Defeated Maddison Inglis [6-1 6-4](#) and Sijia Wei [75 62](#).
- Bids to reach 1st ever WTA 125 semi-final.
- However reached one WTA Tour semi-final, at Osaka in October last year, falling to Suzan Lamens in final.
- Reached semi-finals on grass at Ilkley last year when it was ITF event, falling to Rebecca Marino.
- Won 5 ITF singles titles, most recently at Brisbane in February.
- Reached mixed doubles final at this year's Australian Open alongside compatriot John-Patrick Smith - they lost to fellow Aussies Olivia Gadecki and John Peers.
- Current Australian No. 3 behind Daria Kasatkina and Maya Joint. Achieved career-high ranking of No. 60 in May.
- Born in Dusseldorf, Germany.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)