



## LTA Daily Player Media Notes

### Lexus Birmingham Open – Sunday, 7 June, 2026

9 of 22 WTA 125 finals in 2026 went to a deciding set, 6 won from a set down, 0 gone to a deciding set tie-break, and 1 retirement (Madison Keys v Diane Parry, Paris). Last to go to deciding set tie-break was at Tampico in 2023.

Final is just the 2nd WTA 125 showpiece event this year to feature both players in the top 70, after Parma.

#### Women's singles final

#### [1] Alexandra Eala (WR37 – PHI) v [5] Nikola Bartunckova (WR69 – CZE)

Head to Head: First meeting

##### ALEXANDRA EALA

- Defeated Priscilla Hon [60 62](#) in R1, Alina Charaeva [62 75](#) in R2, qualifier Mananchaya Sawangkaev [63 62](#) in QF and qualifier Rebeka Masarova [62 46 63](#) in SF.
- 7th top seed to reach a WTA 125 final in 2026. All previous 6 top seeds lost in the final this year.
- Top seed failed to win any of last 32 WTA 125 events. Last player to do this was Sara Bejlek, Queretaro, October 2025.
- Top seed won 1 of the previous 6 WTA 125 events on grass (Alison Van Uytvanck, 2022 Gaiba).
- 2nd left-hander to reach a WTA 125 final in 2026, after Maja Chwalinska, Oeiras, won title.
- 2nd WTA 125 final (won title at Guadalajara last year).
- Made debut at Birmingham last year, where as No. 3 seed fell to Linda Fruhvirtova in R1.
- At Eastbourne last year reached the final, where she fell to Maya Joint despite having four match points. It remains her only WTA Tour final to date, and she became the first ever Filipina to appear in a WTA Tour final.
- Came to prominence at Miami last year, when as a wild card ranked No. 140, defeated World No. 2 Iga Swiatek and World No. 5 Madison Keys to make SF. Defeated three Grand Slam champions in all (also Jelena Ostapenko).
- Best performance on WTA Tour this year is a SF at Auckland.
- Girls' singles champion at the 2022 US Open.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 29 in March – highest ranked Filipino player in history.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

##### NIKOLA BARTUNKOVA

- Defeated British wild card Harriet Dart [36 63 75](#) in R1, lucky loser Gabriela Knuston [64 76\(4\)](#) in R2, British wild card Mika Stojsavljjevic [64 67\(8\) 76\(4\)](#) in QF and qualifier Ashlyn Krueger [64 76\(7\)](#) in SF.
- 1st ever tournament on grass.
- 5th Czech woman to reach a WTA 125 final in 2026, after Krejckikova, Valentova, Salkova and Vidmanova.
- Bids to become the 2nd Czech player to win a WTA 125 title in 2026 (Dominika Salkova, Les Sables). Czech Linda Fruhvirtova reached the final here last year. 2nd WTA 125 final (Samsun, Turkey last year on hard, falling to Kaja Juvan).
- Reached maiden WTA Tour SF at the WTA 500 at Guadalajara last year as a wild card and ranked at No. 228.
- Reached R3 at this year's Australian Open as a qualifier, defeating World No. 43 Daria Kasatkina and World No. 10 Belina Bencic.
- As a lucky loser reached R16 at the WTA 1000 in Rome in May, defeating World No. 19 Madison Keys.

- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 65 in May. This time last year was ranked outside the top 200.
- Has a 4-5 win-loss record against top 50 players. The highest ranked player she has defeated is No. 10 Bencic at this year's Australian Open.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)