



## LTA Daily Player Media Notes

### Lexus Nottingham Open – Tuesday, June 16, 2026

#### Centre Court – Match 1

#### [8] McCartney Kessler (WR44 – USA) v [Q] Katie Volynets (WR102 – USA)

Head to Head: Kessler leads 1-0

2023 Lexington (ITF) R16 Hard Kessler 60 63

#### McCARTNEY KESSLER

- Defending champion, winning title on debut last year, defeating Dayana Yastremska in final. Came into Nottingham last year having won her 1st ever WTA Tour main draw match on grass the week before, at Queen's.
- Has a 5-0 win-loss record at Nottingham.
- It was her 3rd WTA Tour title, and 1st on grass. Hasn't won a title or reached a final since.
- 3rd American woman to win Nottingham title, after Julie Heldman (1971) and Billie Jean King (1972, 1973).
- Just one Nottingham defending champion lost opening match the following year – Beatriz Haddad Maia in 2023.
- Other WTA Tour titles have come at Cleveland in 2024 and at Hobart last year.
- Fell to Karolina Pliskova in R1 at Queen's last week.
- Lost in R1 in both previous Wimbledon main draw appearances (2024, 2025).
- Has a 12-12 win-loss record on WTA Tour in 2026, with best results reaching QF's at Abu Dhabi (WTA 500) and at Charleston (WTA 500).
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 30 in June 2025. Currently USA's No. 9.
- Lost last match against a player ranked outside top 100, falling to No. 106 Pliskova at Queen's last week.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

#### KATIE VOLYNETS

- 4th appearance at Nottingham – 0-3 win-loss record in main draw.
- Qualified by defeating Panna Udvardy and Kimberly Birrell.
- Qualified at s'Hertogenbosch last week but lost in R1 to Zeynep Sonmez.
- Best results on WTA Tour have been 2 SF's, falling to Varvara Gracheva at Austin in 2023 and to Katie Boulter at Ostrava this year.
- Never got beyond last 32 in any event on grass, so if wins today will be a first.
- Best result at the Grand Slams is reaching R3 at Australian Open in 2023.
- Reached R2 at Wimbledon last year.
- Was a good junior – won the USTA Under-18's Championship in 2019, defeating Emma Navarro in final.
- Has a 6-11 win-loss record in main draw matches on WTA Tour in 2026, with best result reaching SF at Ostava. Lost 6 of last 7 matches.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 56 in July 2024.
- Has a 9-36 win-loss against top 50 players, but has lost 17 of last 19 matches against top 50 players. Highest ranked player she has defeated is No. 6 Ons Jabeur at Indian Wells in 2024.
- However won last match against top 50 player on grass, defeating No. 45 and Queen's champion Tatjana Maria at Wimbledon last year.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

## Centre Court – Match 2

### [Q] Zeynep Sonmez (WR61 – TUR) v [2] Leylah Fernandez (WR22 – CAN)

Head to Head: Fernandez leads 1-0

2026 Stuttgart

R16

Clay

Fernandez 67(2) 61 76(5)

Fernandez was 5-1 down in deciding set.

#### **ZEYNEP SONMEZ**

- Debut at Nottingham.
- Defeated Lanlana Tararudee and Hannah Klugman in qualifying.
- Reached maiden WTA Tour QF on grass at s'Hertogenbosch last week.
- Won maiden WTA Tour title at Merida in 2024, becoming 1st player from Turkey to win a WTA singles title since Çağla Büyükakçay at Istanbul in 2016, and only 2nd overall.
- Best result at the Grand Slams is reaching R3 at Wimbledon last year and at the Australian Open this year.
- At Wimbledon last year, become 1st player from Turkey to reach R3 at a Grand Slam in the Open Era, and at the Australian Open this year became the 1st Turkish woman to record a main draw match win at the Australian Open in the Open Era.
- Has a 12-12 win-loss record in main draw matches on the WTA Tour in 2026, with best results reaching 2 QF's, at Merida and at s'Hertogenbosch.
- Won last WTA Tour main match on grass against a left-hander, defeating Arantxa Rus at Berlin in 2024.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 59 in May. The highest-ranked Turkish woman in history.
- Highest ranked player she has defeated is No. 8 Jasmine Paolini at Stuttgart this year.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

#### **LEYLAH FERNANDEZ**

- 2nd appearance at Nottingham – fell to Dayana Yastremska in QF here last year.
- Won 5 WTA Tour titles, most recently at Osaka in October last year.
- Best result on grass is reaching final at Eastbourne in 2024, falling to Daria Kasatkina.
- Fell to Katie Boulter in 3 tight sets in R1 at Queen's last week.
- 2021 US Open runner-up, falling to Emma Raducanu in final.
- Achieved career-high ranking of No. 13 in August 2022.
- Member of Canada's 2023 Billie Jean King Cup winning side.
- Has an 11-15 win-loss record on the WTA Tour in 2026, with best result reaching QF's at Stuttgart, Madrid and Strasbourg (all on clay).
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

## Centre Court – Match 4

### [1] Jaime Faria (WR93 – POR) v [Q] Zhizhen Zhang (WR189 – CHN)

Head to Head: First meeting

#### JAIME FARIA

- Defeated Moez Echargui [63 64](#) in R1.
- 2nd appearance at Nottingham – reached QF here last year, falling to Shintaro Mochizuki.
- 1st event on grass in 2026.
- Men's top seed won title in 4 of last 6 editions of this event – Dan Evans (2019, 2022), Andy Murray (2023) and Marin Cilic (2025 – 2nd seed – Luca Nardi withdrew).
- Men's top seed won 15 of 116 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2026.
- Top seed at Ilkley last week was Portuguese (Henrique Rocha), but he lost in R2.
- Bids to reach 17th ATP Challenger QF, 2nd on grass (Nottingham last year), and 7th of 2026.
- If wins will be 3rd occasion a Portuguese player, man or woman, reached Nottingham QF, after Nuno Borges (2023) and Faria himself (2025).
- Won 2 ATP Challenger Tour titles, at Oeiras, Portugal in 2024 and at Curitiba, Brazil, also in 2024 (both on clay).
- Reached 2 ATP Challenger Tour finals in 2026, at Sao Paulo and at Mauthausen, Austria (both on clay).
- Best results on ATP Tour are reaching 3 QF's, all on clay at Rio in 2025, Santiago in 2025 and at Rio in 2026.
- Played just 1 ATP main draw match on grass, falling to Lorenzo Sonego at Wimbledon last year.
- At Roland Garros this year became 5th Portuguese man to reach R3 at a Grand Slam in the Open Era, falling to Frances Tiafoe.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 87 in February 2025. Currently Portugal's No. 2, behind Borges.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

#### ZHIZHEN ZHANG

- Defeated Darwin Blanch [64 67\(8\) 64](#) in R1.
- 3rd appearance at Nottingham, and 1st since 2021, when reached R2, falling to Mackenzie McDonald.
- Defeated Mark Ceban and Oliver Okonkwo in qualifying.
- Qualified at Birmingham two weeks ago, but lost in R1. Then reached QF at s'Hertogenbosch last week.
- Bids to reach 19th ATP Challenger Tour QF, 1st on grass, and 2nd of 2026 (Brisbane).
- Bids to become 2nd Chinese man to reach Nottingham QF, after Shang Juncheng (2024).
- Last men's qualifiers to reach WF of this event were 3 Brits – Jack Pinnington Jones, Jacob Fearnley and Charles Broom in 2024.
- Won 4 ATP Challenger Tour titles, most recently at Brisbane 2 in February – his 1st title at this level in 4 years.
- Best performance on ATP Tour is reaching the final at Hangzhou in 2024, falling to Marin Cilic, who at No. 777 became the lowest ever ranked player to win an ATP Tour title.
- Also reached two ATP Tour SF's, at Hamburg on clay in 2023 and at Halle on grass in 2024, where he fell to Jannik Sinner (both ATP 500 events). Defeated then World No. 5 Daniil Medvedev at Halle.
- Also reached the QF at Eastbourne in 2023, where recorded 1st ever ATP Tour main draw victory on grass.
- First came to prominence in 2021 when became 1st Chinese man in the Open Era to play in the main draw at Wimbledon.
- In Madrid in 2023, he became 1st Chinese man to reach QF of an ATP 1000 event, and also reached the last eight at Rome the following year.
- Reached SF of men's doubles at the 2024 Australian Open alongside Tomas Machac, and also won a silver medal in mixed doubles at the 2024 Olympic Games.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 31 in July 2024, becoming the highest ranked Chinese man. In March last year he was still ranked at No. 51, but has since fallen down the rankings. Currently China's No. 3, behind Wu Yibing and Bu Yunchaokete.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)