

CHINA OPEN BEIJING 2026

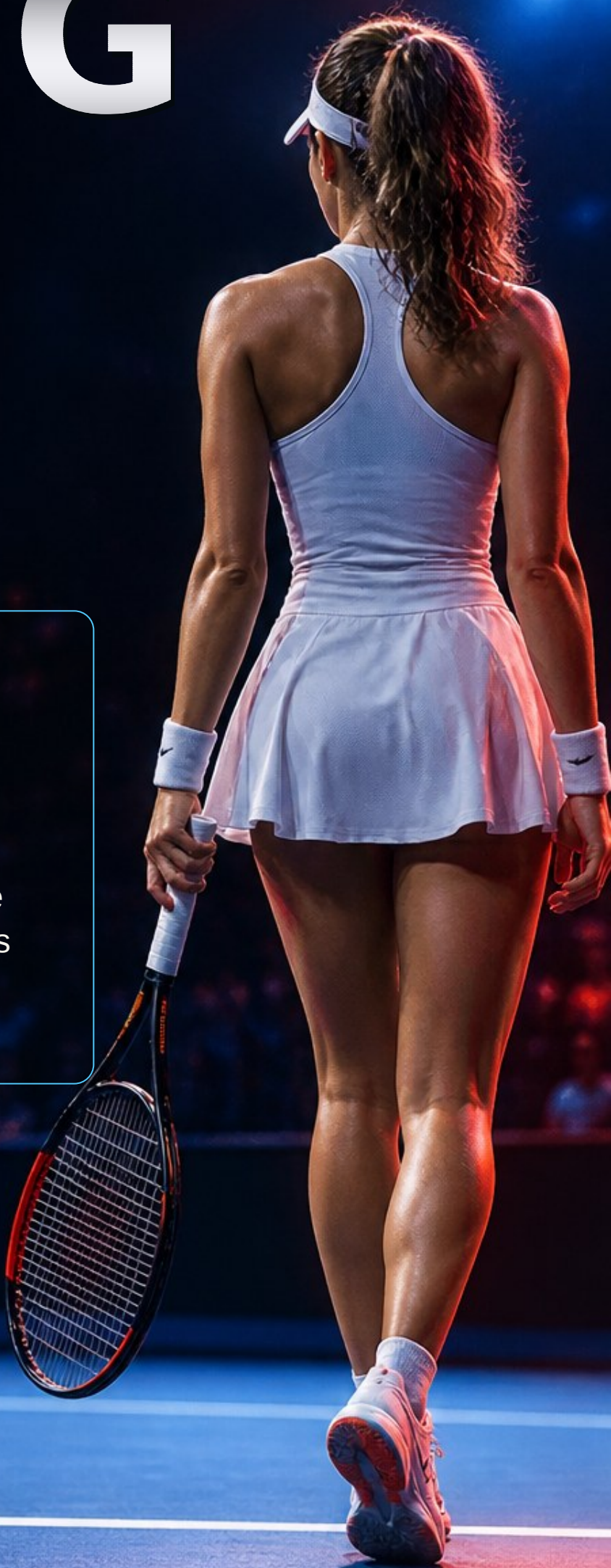
PREMIUM TENNIS PREDICTIONS

HISTORY. CONTENDERS. OUR PICKS.

ATP 500 · September 30–October 6
WTA 1000 · September 30–October 11

Recent champions, official entry watchlists, title favourites and surprise-run selections — across 20 illustrated pages.

PUBLICATION EDITION · SEPTEMBER 7
Research checked September 4, 2026



CONTENTS

03	Official calendar
04	Beijing's tennis history
05–06	Recent champions
07	The 2025 retrospective
08	Men's entry watch
09	Zverev: our ATP pick
10	Sinner: fitness first
11	Djokovic: the return
12	Men's surprise selection
13	Women's entry watch
14	Gauff: our WTA pick
15–16	Rivals and surprises
17	All final predictions
18	What could change
19–20	Sources and disclosures

A pre-draw preview. Participation may change.
AI-generated images are illustrative.

THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR

TWO COMPETITIONS / ONE BEIJING SHOWCASE

ATP 500 • MEN

September 30–October 6, 2026. The ATP tournament profile lists a 32-player singles draw on hard courts. [Official ATP calendar](#)

WTA 1000 • WOMEN

September 30–October 11, 2026. The women’s competition features a 96-player singles draw on outdoor hard courts. [Official WTA calendar](#)

PUBLICATION VERSUS PLAY

This preview is prepared for September 7 publication, using information checked September 4. Publication day is not the tournament’s opening day. Match times and qualifying sessions require the later daily order of play.

The two tours have different final dates. Check Beijing local time for sessions.

BEIJING'S TENNIS STORY

HISTORY / A MODERN HARD-COURT LANDMARK

A TOURNAMENT TAKES ROOT

The modern China Open began in 2004. The women's event has been staged at Beijing's National Tennis Center since 2009; its signature Diamond Court holds 15,000 spectators. [WTA event history](#)

THE INTERRUPTED TIMELINE

There were no editions from 2020 through 2022. Competition returned in 2023. Recent-winner lists therefore jump from 2019 to 2023; those missing years are not forgotten champions.

WHY THE HISTORY MATTERS

Beijing offers useful evidence of a player's comfort with the event, but history cannot settle a new draw. Current movement, recovery and opposition should carry more weight than a familiar name on a trophy.

Read past success as context, not as a promise of another title.

MEN'S HONOUR ROLL

THE FIVE MOST RECENT COMPLETED EDITIONS

CHAMPIONS

- 2025 — Jannik Sinner
- 2024 — Carlos Alcaraz
- 2023 — Jannik Sinner
- 2019 — Dominic Thiem
- 2018 — Nikoloz Basilashvili

THE RECENT PATTERN

Sinner won two of the three editions played since the return. Alcaraz interrupted that sequence in 2024. This creates a compelling historical comparison, but neither a past title nor a defending-champion label confirms participation or fitness.

A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

Thiem and Basilashvili illustrate the variety of players who have lifted the trophy. The event's history rewards more than one route to winning: aggressive first strikes, strong returning and sustained baseline pressure can all matter. [ATP tournament history](#) · [ATP past champions](#)

Years shown are editions played, rather than five consecutive calendar years.



WOMEN'S HONOUR ROLL

THE FIVE MOST RECENT COMPLETED EDITIONS

CHAMPIONS

- 2025 — Amanda Anisimova
- 2024 — Coco Gauff
- 2023 — Iga Swiatek
- 2019 — Naomi Osaka
- 2018 — Caroline Wozniacki

FIVE DIFFERENT CHAMPIONS

The recent roll includes powerful early ball striking and exceptional defensive coverage. There is no single historical playing style that should automatically dominate the 2026 forecast.

EXPERIENCE VERSUS EXPECTATION

Returning champions know what a successful campaign here feels like. They still face a new field, a new draw and a different physical workload. For this preview, past success supports the assessment without deciding it. [Official WTA past winners](#)

Anisimova is the defending champion; Gauff and Swiatek are recent former champions.



WHAT 2025 TELLS US

RETROSPECTIVE / TWO DIFFERENT TITLE RUNS

SINNER'S FINISH

Sinner defeated Learner Tien 6–2, 6–2 in the 2025 men’s final. That result establishes the defending champion and a recent benchmark; it does not resolve his 2026 injury question. [2025 men’s final report](#)

ANISIMOVA’S BREAKTHROUGH

Anisimova defeated Linda Noskova in the women’s final to take the 2025 title. Both belong in the 2026 discussion, although repeating a final is much harder to forecast than identifying credible contenders. [WTA defending-champion profile](#)

THE EDITORIAL LESSON

A dominant final can hide the challenges required to reach it. Assess the whole route: opponents, close sets, accumulated court time and recovery. Do not project last year’s scoreline onto opponents who have not yet been drawn.

A useful retrospective explains context without pretending that history repeats exactly.



MEN'S ENTRY WATCH

OFFICIAL ENTRY RELEASE / SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

HEADLINE ENTRANTS

Jannik Sinner, Alexander Zverev and Novak Djokovic headline the ATP's published Beijing entry release. They are entered, not guaranteed starters. [Official ATP entry list](#)

NAMES TO FOLLOW

The official list also includes Felix Auger-Aliassime, Flavio Cobolli, Alex de Minaur, Daniil Medvedev, Jakub Mensik, Andrey Rublev and Francisco Cerundolo. These are selected entrants, not the complete final draw.

WHAT REMAINS OPEN

Withdrawals, qualifying and wild cards can change the final field. Seedings and individual pairings should be taken from the released draw. This report does not invent first-round matches or a route to the final.

Entry status checked September 4. Follow the linked ATP release for the full list.



ZVEREV: OUR ATP PICK

EDITORIAL FORECAST / PROVISIONAL TITLE SELECTION

THE CURRENT CASE

Zverev’s 2026 French Open title and Wimbledon final strengthen the case for a sustained title challenge. Those results are a form signal rather than proof of a Beijing hard-court advantage. [Recent season context](#)

HOW HE COULD WIN

My preferred scenario is a reliable first serve followed by deep backhands that prevent opponents attacking immediately. If he holds court position and avoids passive stretches, he can make stronger use of his physical reach.

WHAT CAN UNDO THE PICK

Second-serve pressure, a difficult early draw or accumulated US Open fatigue could weaken the forecast. I favour Zverev provisionally, with low-to-moderate confidence; a fit Sinner would make the choice substantially closer.



Prediction: Alexander Zverev to win the men’s singles title. Reassess after the draw.

SINNER: FITNESS FIRST

DEFENDING CHAMPION / CONDITIONAL FAVOURITE

CONFIRMED CONCERN

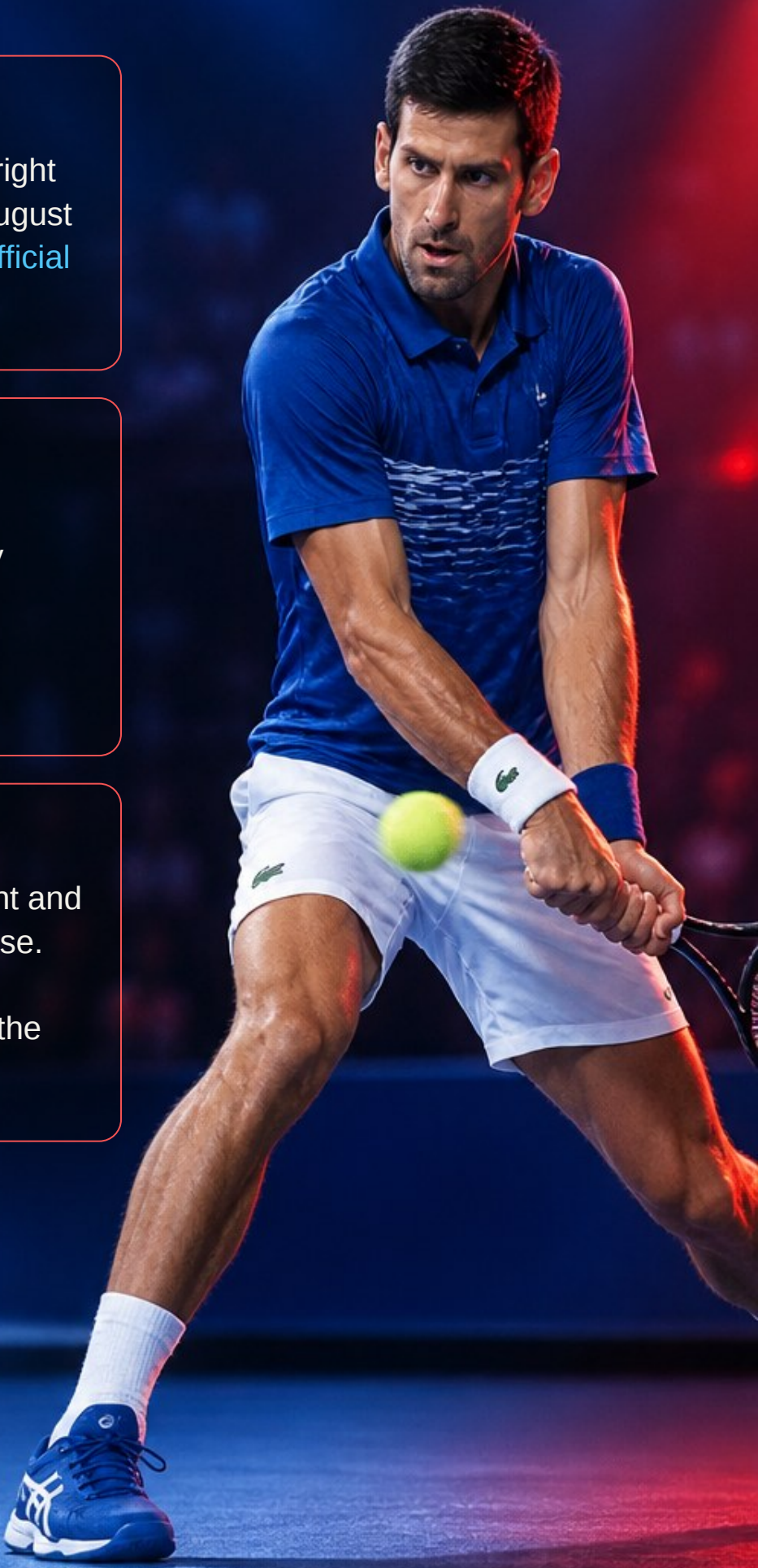
Sinner withdrew from the 2026 US Open with a right knee injury, as reported by the tournament on August 21. His Beijing entry is not medical clearance. [Official US Open injury report](#)

THE TENNIS CASE

If healthy, his ability to take time away from opponents makes him an obvious title threat. My tactical focus would be the quality of his return position, balance through direction changes and willingness to defend wide balls.

THE UPGRADE TRIGGER

A confirmed return, unrestricted match movement and normal recovery would materially improve his case. Without those signals, I will not rank him as a high-confidence winner solely because he lifted the trophy in 2025.



Alternative champion: Jannik Sinner, conditional on a convincing return to full fitness.

DJOKOVIC: THE RETURN

ESTABLISHED CONTENDER / EXPERIENCE UNDER PRESSURE

BEIJING PEDIGREE

Djokovic's six Beijing titles and 29 match wins give this return a distinctive historical background. He appears on the 2026 ATP entry list. [ATP historical record](#) · [2026 entry release](#)

HIS ROUTE TO CONTENTION

The editorial case starts with return pressure, disciplined rally patterns and management of crucial points. In a tight match, making the opponent hit one more difficult shot can be more valuable than spectacular winners.

WHY HE IS NOT MY TOP PICK

Past dominance cannot answer present questions about recovery or consecutive matches. I would raise his position if the early rounds show fresh movement and efficient service games; a long opening battle would make the outlook less comfortable.

Contender, not an automatic champion: historical success needs current physical support.

MEN'S SURPRISE WATCH

JAKUB MENSIK / A RUN BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

THE SURPRISE SELECTION

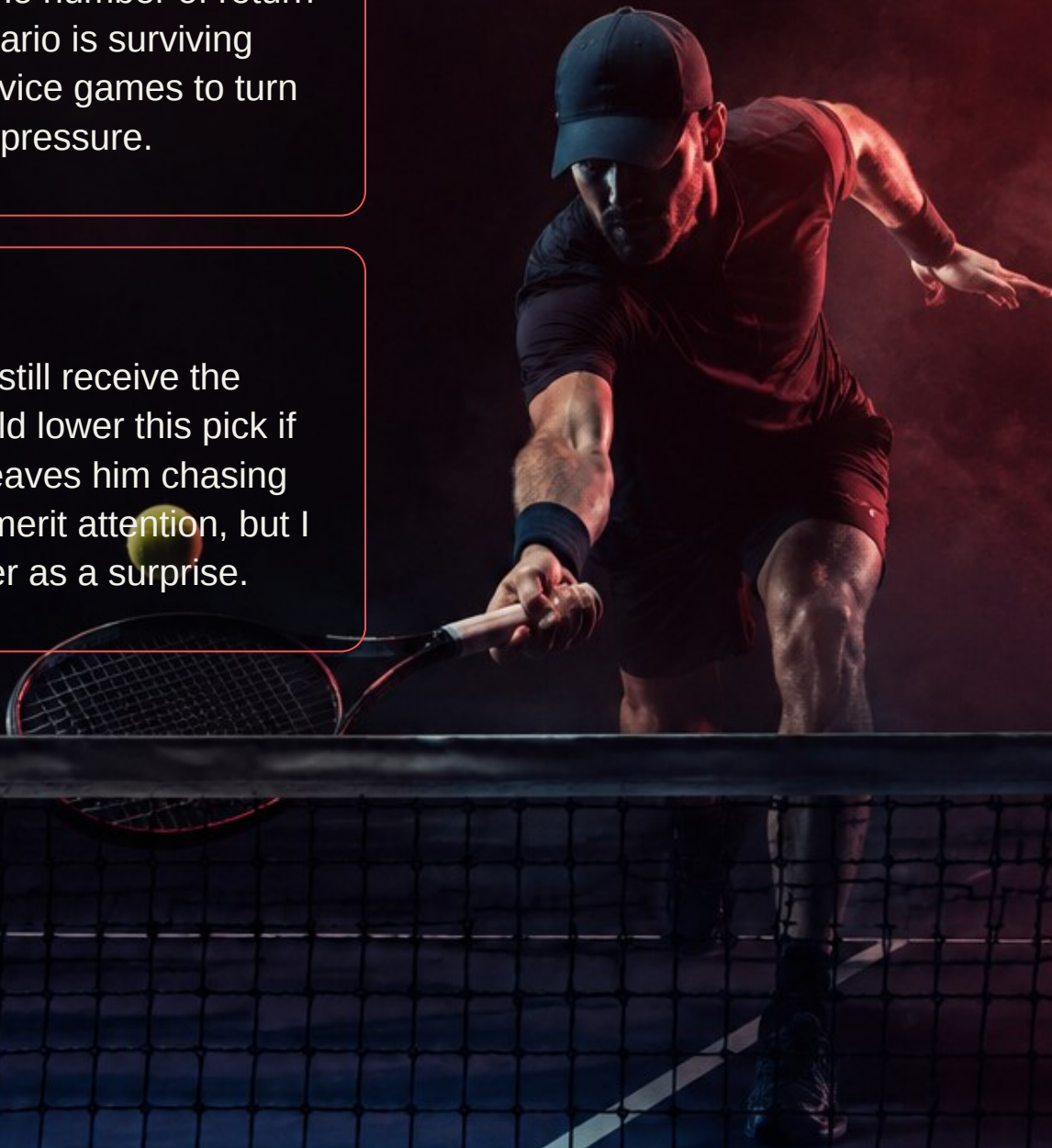
Mensik is my chosen men's surprise-run candidate among the listed entrants. A quarterfinal appearance is the provisional target, not a claim about a known draw. [ATP entry release](#)

THE UPSET ROUTE

A strong serving day can reduce the number of return games he must win. The key scenario is surviving long enough in the opponent's service games to turn a few second serves into genuine pressure.

THE WARNING SIGN

An attractive upset candidate can still receive the toughest opening opponent. I would lower this pick if early return pressure repeatedly leaves him chasing sets. Rublev and Cerundolo also merit attention, but I am not presenting every challenger as a surprise.



Surprise forecast: Mensik to reach the quarterfinals, subject to draw and fitness.

WOMEN'S ENTRY WATCH

OFFICIAL WTA RELEASE / SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

LEADING NAMES ENTERED

Aryna Sabalenka, Elena Rybakina, Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff, Mirra Andreeva, Linda Noskova, Karolina Muchova and Iga Swiatek.

MORE CONTENDERS ENTERED

Amanda Anisimova, Elina Svitolina, Naomi Osaka, Belinda Bencic and Iva Jovic also appear in the WTA's published Beijing list. [Official women's entry list](#)

HOW TO READ THIS PAGE

These are selected confirmed entries as of the research date, not final seed numbers or guaranteed appearances. Names are separated from predictions: being entered does not mean this report expects every player to reach the closing rounds.

Use the official release for the full published list and later changes.



GAUFF: OUR WTA PICK

RECENT HARD-COURT FORM / PROVISIONAL CHAMPION

EVIDENCE BEHIND THE CHOICE

Gauff won Cincinnati in August 2026, defeating Jessica Pegula 6–2, 6–4 in the final. Combined with her 2024 Beijing title, this gives the selection both recent and event-specific support. [Official Cincinnati final report](#)

HOW SHE COULD WIN

My preferred scenario combines deep returning, strong court coverage and selective backhand aggression. She does not need to dominate every exchange if she can make opponents play difficult extra balls at important moments.

WHAT CAN UNDO THE PICK

Serving instability can expose her to repeated pressure, while an aggressive opponent can shorten points before her defence becomes decisive. Confidence is moderate, not high: this is a deep field and the draw is still unknown.



Prediction: Coco Gauff to win the women’s singles title. Reassess after the draw.

THE WOMEN'S TITLE RIVALS

EDITORIAL MATCHUP READS / ENTERED CONTENDERS

ARYNA SABALENKA

My main alternative to Gauff. The tactical case is forceful serving and early aggression that denies opponents time. The vulnerability is a stretch of loose attacking errors that turns control into scoreboard pressure.

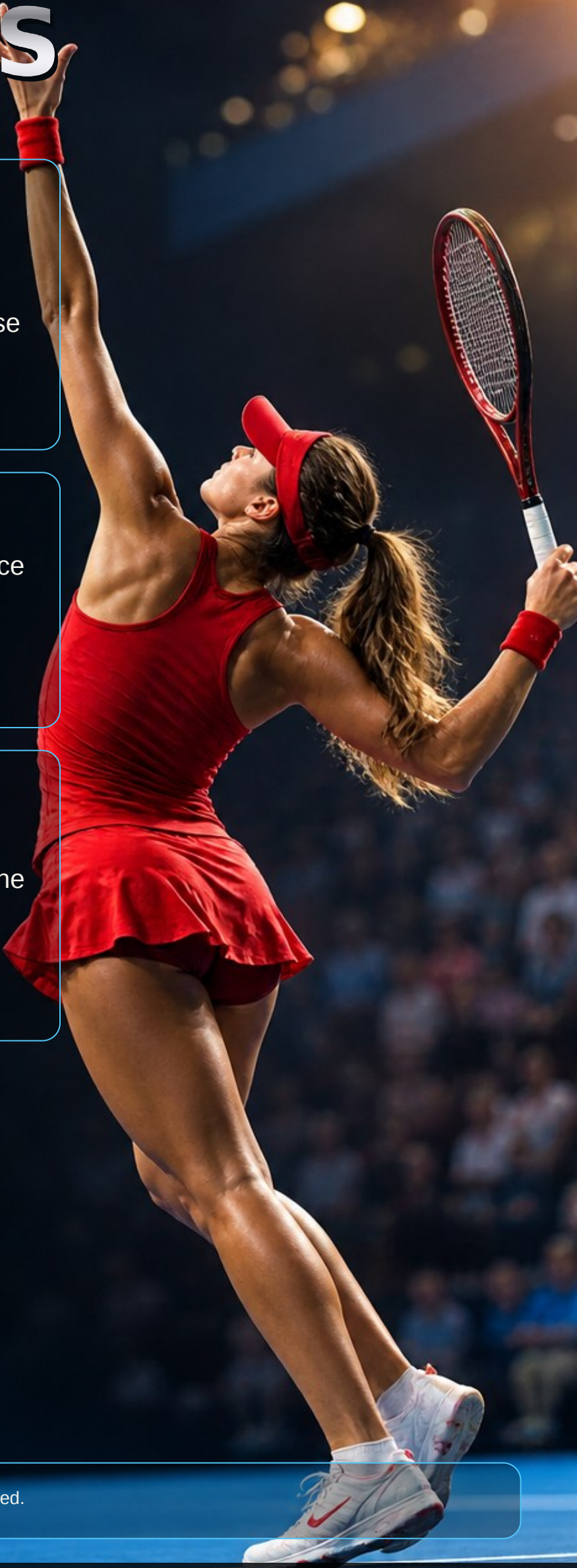
ELENA RYBAKINA

Her first-strike route is particularly appealing if service games stay short. My concern would be repeated extended exchanges when the first serve stops producing an immediate advantage.

IGA SWIATEK

The 2023 Beijing champion brings a credible return-and-pressure route. I would watch whether she consistently gets into rallies on opponents' serves. These assessments are editorial scenarios, not measured claims about the unreleased 2026 draw.

All three appear in the WTA entry release. No head-to-head pairing is assumed.



CHALLENGERS AND SURPRISES

SEPARATING ESTABLISHED THREATS FROM AN OUTSIDE PICK

ANISIMOVA AND NOSKOVA

The 2025 finalists are serious challengers, not unknown outsiders. Anisimova’s case rests on sustained early ball striking; Noskova’s route is similarly attractive when she can attack without sacrificing too much margin.

ANDREEVA’S OPPORTUNITY

I view Andreeva as another meaningful title challenger. A balanced rally game can become especially valuable when an opponent is impatient. Calling every strong entrant a dark horse would make the label unhelpful.

THE SURPRISE PICK: IVA JOVIĆ

My women’s surprise forecast is a Jovic quarterfinal run. This is a speculative editorial choice that needs a workable draw, sound serving and efficient early wins. It is a less confident selection than the main title pick.

Surprise forecast: Iva Jovic to reach the quarterfinals, subject to draw and fitness.



THE FINAL PREDICTIONS

CLEAR PICKS / NO INVENTED ODDS OR MATCHUPS

MEN'S SINGLES CHAMPION

Alexander Zverev

Confidence: low to moderate.

Main alternative: Jannik Sinner, if fully fit.

Other leading threat: Novak Djokovic.

WOMEN'S SINGLES CHAMPION

Coco Gauff

Confidence: moderate.

Main alternative: Aryna Sabalenka.

Other leading threats: Rybakina and Swiatek.

SURPRISE RUNS

Jakub Mensik — quarterfinals.

Iva Jovic — quarterfinals.

Both are speculative, pre-draw targets. Confidence labels express editorial conviction; they are not calibrated probabilities or betting recommendations.

Research cutoff: September 4, 2026. These forecasts can change with new evidence.



WHAT COULD CHANGE THE PICKS

DRAW / FITNESS / RECOVERY / CONDITIONS

ONCE THE DRAW IS RELEASED

Check whether the preferred contenders face each other early. A plausible champion can become a weaker selection if several difficult matchups cluster in the same section. Replace imagined routes with actual pairings.

BEFORE THE OPENING MATCH

Recheck withdrawals and fitness updates, especially Sinner’s knee. Review recovery after the US Open and intervening tournaments. An entry list is a useful starting point but cannot establish how fresh a player will arrive.

DURING THE TOURNAMENT

Watch first-serve reliability, returning position and movement under pressure. A close win is not automatically a bad sign; repeated physical difficulties matter more. Update the assessment with reasons, rather than disguising a changed forecast as the original pick.

The strongest update explains which new fact changed the original reasoning.

SOURCES AND METHOD

OFFICIAL CALENDARS / ENTRY RELEASES / RESULT ARCHIVES

CALENDAR AND PARTICIPATION

- ATP Beijing profile
- WTA Beijing profile
- ATP 2026 entry release
- WTA 2026 entry release
- China Open official website

HISTORY, FORM AND FITNESS

- ATP historical overview
- WTA past winners
- US Open: Sinner injury withdrawal
- WTA: Gauff wins Cincinnati
- Reuters: Zverev season context
- Reuters: 2025 men’s final

EDITORIAL METHOD

Facts were checked September 4, 2026. Forecasts are qualitative editorial judgments using entry status, recent results, event history and known fitness concerns. No statistical model, bookmaker prices or confirmed future matchups are claimed.

Visuals are AI-generated illustrations, not photographs of named players or official trophies.

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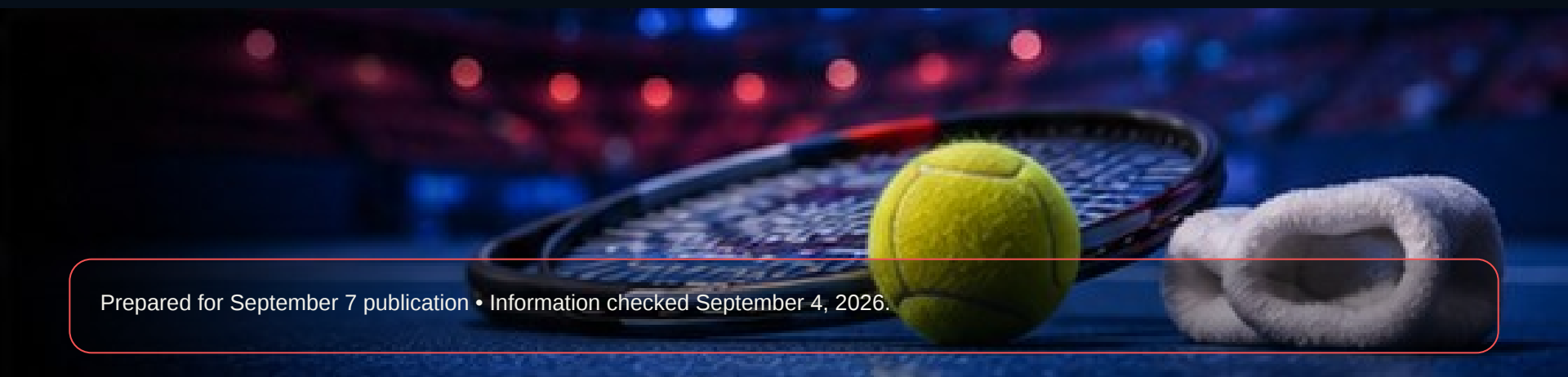
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