

LTA Daily Brit Player Media Notes

Rothesay Open Nottingham

SONAY KARTAL (GBR) v MAGDALENA FRECH (POL)

Head to Head: First meeting

Sonay Kartal biography [HERE](#)

Career highlights:

- She won four ITF World Tennis Tour events last year and rose up the WTA rankings, breaking into the top 200.
- Kartal made her Grand Slam debut after being awarded a wild card to play at Wimbledon last summer.
- She won another ITF World Tennis Tour W25 event in Santa Margherita di Pula, Italy in April of this year.
- Kartal is supported by the LTA's [PSP](#) programme.
- Her biggest ranking win of 2023 came against world No.203 Isabella Shinikova in the ITF World Tour W60 event in Sunderland in February.

Magdalena Frech biography [HERE](#)

Career highlights:

- Frech best performance in a Grand Slam event was reaching the third round at Wimbledon last year.
- She achieved a career high ranking of No.77 today.
- This Polish player has won eight singles titles on the ITF World Tennis Tour, with her win at the W60 Prague Open in 2021 her biggest tournament win so far.
- She has a win against two-time former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova on her record from the 2022 Credit One Charleston Open.
- Her highest ranking win of 2023 came against world No.29 Zhang Shuai at the French Open last month.

HEATHER WATSON (GBR) v JULE NIEMEIER (GER)

Head to Head: Tied 1-1

Previous meeting: 2022 Wimbledon, R4 (Grass) - Maria won 62 64

Heather Watson biography [HERE](#)

Career highlights:

- Watson enjoyed a career best run to the fourth round at Wimbledon last summer.
- Some of her best form in 2023 came at the Thailand Open in February, where she made it to the quarter-final. Here, she faced Wang Xinyu in a three-set battle which saw the Brit bow out of the tournament in a 6-3, 7(6)-6, 6-4 loss.
- Watson began her year by reaching the quarter-final of the W60 Canberra event. Here, she faced fellow Brit Katie Boulter and lost out 6-1, 6-3.
- One of her career highlights was winning the Wimbledon mixed doubles title with partner Henri Kontinen in 2016.
- She has reached the last 16 at the Nottingham Open on three occasions.
- Her highest ranking win in 2023 was against world No.44 Yulia Putintseva at the Thailand Open in February.

Jule Niemeier [HERE](#)

Career highlights:

- Reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals last year, losing in a tight three set match against Tatjana Maria.

- She beat No.2 seed Anett Kontaveit during that Wimbledon run.
- Niemeier has wins against Garbine Muguruza and Simon Halep on her record.
- She is currently ranked at No.118 and her best career win of 2023 came against world No.10 Petra Kvitova at the Madrid Open in April.

ARTHUR FERY (GBR) v STEVE JOHNSON (USA)

Head to Head: First meeting

Arthur Fery biography [HERE](#)

Career highlights:

- Fery made an impress on the ITF junior tour, reaching a career high junior world ranking of 12 in March 2020.
- He reached his first ATP Challenger doubles final in November last year with partner Giles Hussey, losing against the British duo of Julian Cash and Henry Patten in Drummondville, Canada.
- His biggest ranking win of 2023 came against world No.269 at the LTA's Lexus Surbiton Trophy last week.

Steve Johnson biography [HERE](#)

Career highlights:

- Achieved career-high No. 21 and became No. 1 American during 2016 season.
- Won grass-court titles at 2016 Nottingham and 2018 Newport, as well as clay-court titles at Houston in 2017 and 2018.
- One of the most successful US college tennis players of all time, winning 2009-12 NCAA team titles with USC, winning 2011-12 NCAA singles titles and ending career with 72 straight singles wins.
- His best run at Wimbledon saw him reach the fourth round in 2016.
- Johnson's best ranking win of 2023 came against world No.113 Facundo Bagnis in Houston in April.

MARIA SAKKARI (GRE) v XIYU WANG (CHN)

Head to Head: Wang leads 1-0

Previous meeting: 2022 US Open, R2 (Hard) - Wang won 36 75 75

Maria Sakkari biography [HERE](#)

Career highlights:

- World No.8 and top seed at the Rothesay Open Nottingham.
- Sakkari was a semi-finalists at the 2022 Australian Open and US Open.
- Se achieved a career high ranking of No.3 in March 2022.
- Finished the 2021 season at a career-high ranking of No.6 as she became the first Greek woman to break into the top 10 of the WTA Rankings.
- She is making her fourth appearance in Nottingham and has been a quarter-finalist in the last three editions of the tournament.

Xiyu Wang biography [HERE](#)

Career highlights:

- Wang achieved a career high ranking of No.49 in January 2023.
- Her best run in a Grand Slam was an appearance in the third round at the 2022 US Open.
- Wang became junior world No. 1 on 10 September 2018 after she won the Junior US Open title.
- The best rankings win of her career came against today's opponent Maria Sakkari at last year's US Open.