

Press Release 27 April 2019

42nd Porsche Tennis Grand Prix - Summary Day 8

Petra Kvitova and Anett Kontaveit in final

Stuttgart. A completely new final for the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix – Petra Kvitova and Anett Kontaveit will meet in the last match this year at the long-standing Stuttgart tournament. At stake will be the main winner's prize, a Porsche 911 Carrera 4S Cabriolet. In front of 4,300 spectators in the Porsche Arena, the Czech Kvitova overcame Kiki Bertens from the Netherlands 7-6(3), 3-6, 6-1 in the first semifinal on Saturday. The Estonian Kontaveit profited from a walkover to advance to the final as the second match in the penultimate round could not be played due an injury to Naomi Osaka, the world number 1 from Japan.

Fourth final in 2019 for Petra Kvitova

The road to her fourth final in 2019 was long and arduous. It took all of two hours and one minute for Petra Kvitova to wrap up her semifinal win against Kiki Bertens. At no stage in the match was there any chance of boredom taking hold of the spectators. The crowd were treated to long and, in part, spectacular rallies, even in the third set when the world number 3 was dominating her opponent. The Czech is in good form this season and won the tournament in Sydney at the turn of the year. It is therefore no wonder that she is heading the Porsche Race to Shenzhen, the official ranking for the prestigious WTA Finals in November.

"On clay, I often need a bit of time to find my game. It's why I was a little amazed that everything went so well for me in the third set," she said. "I had a good build up to the tournament and it's now paying off. I'm getting better and better. The match today, in contrast to my quarterfinal, went really well." When asked about the final against Anett

Press Release 27 April 2019

Kontaveit, she said, "We practiced together before the tournament and it was a lot of

fun. It'll definitely be an exciting final. I lost my last two at the Australian Open and in

Dubai, so I really want to win tomorrow."

"I've never been in such a situation"

When Anett Kontaveit discovered at midday that she had been given a walkover and

was in the final, she was both surprised and happy. "It was obviously something I never

expected and I can't remember ever being in such a situation," said the Estonian, the

world number 15. "I just can't say whether it'll be an advantage or disadvantage. Petra

is a great player, but I also know that if I play well then I can live with the best."

Naomi Osaka forced to withdraw

The first semifinal in the Porsche Arena was still to begin but the Porsche Tennis Grand

Prix had lost its number 1 player as Naomi Osaka was forced to withdraw due to an

abdominal injury she had incurred in her quarterfinal match on Friday when she

sensationally came back to beat Croatia's Donna Vekic.

"I would have loved to have played here but it simply wasn't possible," said the visibly

downhearted Japanese player. "When I woke up today, I could only roll out of bed. So,

I decided I unfortunately wasn't able to play. Stuttgart has given me a boost for the clay

court season. I'm happy I won two games and I would like to say a big thank-you to

the fans that supported me so fantastically."

Naomi Osaka's withdrawal also came as a shock to Tournament Director Günthardt.

"It's naturally sad for any tournament to lose a semifinal, especially for the spectators.

We certainly didn't have much luck this week but it's an indication of the quality of the

Porsche Tennis Grand Prix that we still had excellent matches of the highest quality.

The Porsche Arena was full and there was a wonderful atmosphere, it speaks for the

2 of 3

tournament. I'm sure we're in store for a top-class final on Sunday."

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Mona Barthel and Anna-Lena Friedsam in doubles final

Two Porsche Team Germany players will grace the doubles final - Mona Barthel and Anna-Lena Friedsam will face Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia) and Lucie Safarova (Czech Republic).

Further information, film and photo material in the Porsche Newsroom: <u>newsroom.porsche.com</u> Latest photo material several times a day at <u>presse.porsche.de/ptgp2019.</u>

911 Carrera 4S Cabriolet: fuel consumption combined: 9.0 l/100 km; CO₂ emissions combined: 207 g/km.

The consumption and CO_2 emission values were determined in accordance with the new Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). The NEDC values derived from this should continue to be specified for the time being. These values cannot be compared to the values determined in accordance with the NEDC measuring procedure used up to now.