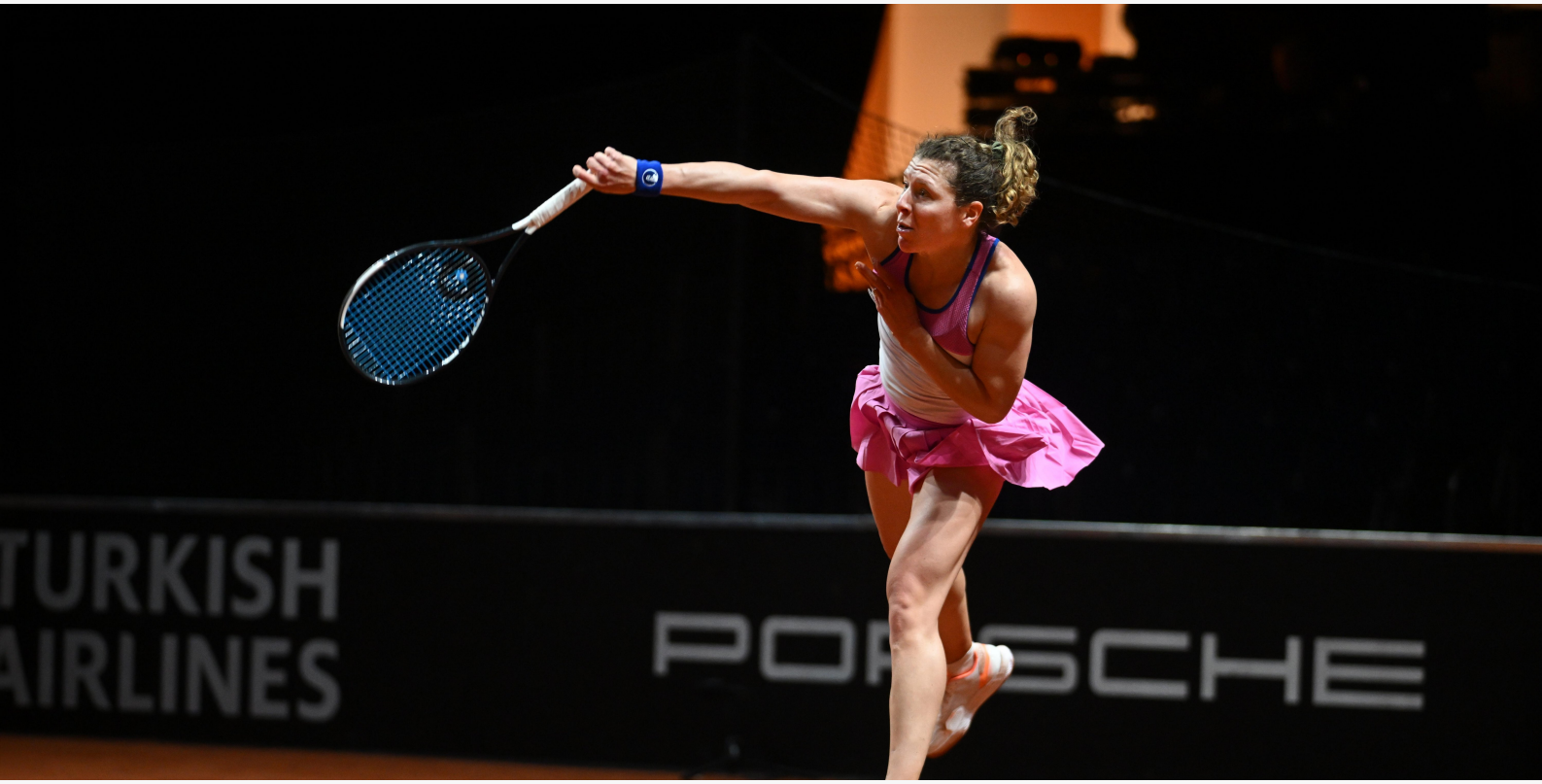



# Thrilling qualifying matches – Anna-Lena Friedsam progresses

11/04/2026 The Porsche Tennis Grand Prix began on Saturday with thrilling qualifying matches and the drawing of the main draw. It included Anna-Lena Friedsam winning the all-German affair against Jule Niemeier 7-5, 6-1 to leave her still in the running for one of the four vacant main draw tickets.

On the opening day of the Porsche Tennis, Germans Julia Stusek and Eva Bennemann from the Porsche Talent Team both missed out on advancing but gained valuable experience for their future careers. The same applied to Victoria Pohle from the local TEC Waldau Stuttgart club – she was given a qualifying wild card – who, despite putting on an excellent display, was defeated by the No. 1 seed Turk Zeynep Sonmez in her first ever WTA 500 tournament.

In her opening match, Anna-Lena Friedsam only encountered stiff opposition in the first set against her compatriot Jule Niemeier, the 2022 Wimbledon quarterfinalist before progressing to the final round of qualifying. German Julia Stusek from the Porsche Talent Team impressed at times against the No. 4 seed Aliaksandra Sasnovich but was however eventually beaten 6-1, 6-4. Her teammate Eva Bennemann made life difficult for the American Alycia Parks, especially in the first set, but went down

7-6 (1), 6-3 in the end.

The other qualifying matches also produced attractive tennis. After losing the first set, France's Oceane Dodin overcame Kathinka von Deichmann (Liechtenstein) 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-3. Vera Zvonareva defeated the No. 3 seed Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva from Andorra 6-3, 6-3. Viktoriya Tomova from Bulgaria beat the Frenchwoman Amandine Hesse 6-1, 6-4. The Czech Gabriela Knutson downed Clara Monnet (France) 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (6). It was evidence of just how tough competition is for the vacant places in the main draw of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix.

## High-class main draw ties

All eyes in the afternoon were on Court 2, the venue for the drawing of the main draw which has produced several potentially enthralling first round encounters in a superb field. One match of particular interest is the one between Porsche Friend Eva Lys and Paula Badosa. The Hamburg-born German, currently the world No. 75, will be up against the former world No. 2 from Spain who has received a wild card for the main draw. The duel is made all the more interesting as the two are good friends and practiced together in the Porsche Arena on Saturday.

Another exciting tie promises to be the one between Alexandra Eala from the Philippines and the Canadian Leylah Fernandez. The 20-year-old Eala caught the eye for the first time last year when reaching the semifinals of the WTA 1000 tournament in Miami. Fernandez was the runner-up at the 2021 US Open. Other first round highlights include the game between the Latvian title-holder Jelena Ostapenko and Mirra Andreeva, who comes to the Porsche Arena as the world No. 10.

From a German point of view, the first round is also full of interesting matches. Local hero Laura Siegemund, the 2017 Stuttgart winner, will start her campaign against the Pole Magdalena Frech. Tamara Korpatsch, a wild card recipient, will kick off against Diana Shnaider. Ella Seidel will face Elise Mertens, the world No. 20 from Belgium. Awaiting Noma Noha Akugue is a qualifier.

## Saturday's results

Qualification, Court 1
[4] A. Sasnovich vs [WC] J. Stusek (GER) 6-1, 6-4
[2] A. Parks (USA) vs E. Bennemann (GER) 7-6 (1), 6-3
[7] A. Friedsam (GER) vs J. Niemeier (GER) 7-5, 6-1
[1] Z. Sonmez (TUR) vs [WC] V. Pohle (GER) 6-3, 6-4

Qualifying, Court 2
O. Dodin (FRA) vs [8] K. Von Deichmann (LIE) 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-3
V. Zvonareva vs [3] V. Jimenez Kasintseva (AND) 6-3, 6-3
[5] V. Tomova (BUL) vs A. Hesse (FRA) 6-1, 6-4

G. Knutson (CZE) vs [6] C. Monnet (FRA) 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (6)

## Sunday's order of play

Qualifying Court 1
From 11.00 am
[2] A. Parks (USA) vs [5] V. Tomova (BUL)
[1] Z. Sonmez (TUR) vs [7] A. Friedsam (GER)

Qualifying Court 2
From 11.00 am
[4] A. Sasnovich vs O. Dodin (FRA)
V. Zvonareva vs G. Knutson (CZE)

## Porsche in tennis

The Porsche Tennis Grand Prix is the flagship of the Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG's worldwide involvement in women's tennis. First played in 1978, the Stuttgart WTA tournament stands for tradition and innovation, just like the Porsche brand. As the most loyal sponsor of women's international tennis, Porsche has accompanied the WTA's oldest indoor event right from the start. Porsche has also been a premium partner of the ☒Deutsche Tennis Bund" (DTB – German Tennis Association) since 2012 and is committed to fostering up-and-coming players in the Porsche Talent Team.

## MEDIA ENQUIRIES



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**Consumption data**

**911 Carrera S Cabriolet (WLTP)*:** Fuel consumption combined: 10.5 – 10.3 l/100 km; $CO_2$ emissions combined: 240 – 235 g/km; $CO_2$ class: G

*Further information on the official fuel consumption and the official specific $CO_2$ emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the "Leitfaden über den Kraftstoffverbrauch, die $CO_2$-Emissionen und den Stromverbrauch neuer Personenkraftwagen" (Fuel Consumption, $CO_2$Emissions and Electricity Consumption Guide for New Passenger Cars), which is available free of charge at all sales outlets and from DAT (Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH, Helmuth-Hirth-Str. 1, 73760 Ostfildern-Scharnhausen, www.dat.de).

## Image Sublines

Path: Thrilling qualifying matches – Anna-Lena Friedsam progresses/Images/img_1.jpg
Title: Julia Stusek, Porsche Talent Team, Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, 2026, Porsche AG
Subline: Julia Stusek

Path: Thrilling qualifying matches – Anna-Lena Friedsam progresses/Images/img_2.jpg
Title: Tamara Korpatsch (GER), Referee Sabine Schulz (l-r), Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, 2026, Porsche AG
Subline: Tamara Korpatsch (GER), Referee Sabine Schulz (l-r)

## Link Collection

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