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Three Porsche Brand Ambassadors at the Australian Open

For the Porsche Brand Ambassadors, Angelique Kerber, Julia Görges and Maria Sharapova, the Australian Open, which begins in Melbourne on Monday, is the first highlight of the 2020 tennis season.



The Australian Open is a quite special tournament for Angelique Kerber. In 2016, she claimed her first Grand Slam win in Melbourne in the final against Serena Williams. At the time, she had already been a Porsche Brand Ambassador for a year – a role she sees as being a “big honour”. “No matter on which continent or in which city I am, I feel the huge excitement that the Porsche brand arouses every day anew,” said the two-time winner of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix (2015 and 2016). Her favourite model? “I’ve already been able to drive a few models, but for me the 911 is an icon standing for the Porsche feel like no other car.”

“The first match at a Grand Slam is never easy”

For starters, the comeback at the Australian is now the first priority for Porsche Team Germany’s top player. She is glad she is due to play her opening match in Melbourne on Tuesday. By then, she is confident the muscle tightness in her thigh, which caused her to withdraw from the final of the Hawaii Open in December, will hopefully have cleared up. She has travelled to Australia with Dieter Kindlmann as her new coach (“a relaxed guy who knows his way around the tour and also knows how everything works) and even appears to be very calm during her first public appearance in Melbourne. “Injuries happen in sport. I have to deal with them and inject all my strength and the positive energy this tournament has given me in the last years into a good comeback,” she says. The fact that her first opponent will be a qualifier does not necessarily make her tournament entry any easier: “The first match at a Grand Slam is never easy, no matter who you play.” Her aims for the season go much further than just good matches at the Australian Open. “I want to go through the year healthy and injury-free,” she says. “For me, it’s the basis if I am to produce good performances consistently.”

“I’ve missed the fans and the competition”

Maria Sharapova is also pinning high hopes on having a successful start to the season at the Australian Open. Due to persistent shoulder problems, the 32-year old Russian only played a total of 16 matches on the WTA Tour in 2019. The thing she missed most of all last year when she hardly played any tournaments and, at best, was only able to practice, and often not even that? “I missed my fans and the competition,” she says “They were tough times as I love what I do. It’s something everybody can see when I’m on court.” Now the former world No. 1 is looking forward to finally playing again at the highest level as she says she still feels, “the fire within me and a big motivation.” She is delighted to be back on the tour and at the Australian Open which she won in 2008. What are the aims she has set

for herself this season? "I want to feel good again on court and not experience any pain," she says. "If I can do that and play better in every match than the one before, then I'll be very happy."



Porsche Brand Ambassador Maria Sharapova



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