



# WTA 500

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Anna Kalinskaya def. Viktoriya Tomova  
6-2, 6-4  
Round of 64

### An Interview With Anna Kalinskaya

**THE MODERATOR:** Anna, congrats. Just your thoughts on the win tonight.

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Yeah. I'm very happy with my win today, especially playing the first match on clay. It's always tricky. I'm happy with my backhand today and looking forward to the next round.

**THE MODERATOR:** Questions.

Q. Well done today. You just mentioned it, the transition from hard to clay court is a little bit tricky for you. Can you elaborate on what the tricky aspects are, and how much preparation time did you have leading into Charleston?

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Yeah. It's different bounce, different speed of the court. So the most challenging part is to adjust the movement. I had some time, because I lost very early in the Miami Open. So I've been trying to prepare. And, yeah, I had some time.

Q. You hadn't played her in a while, but she's been a tricky opponent for you in the past. Just talk about what makes her tough out there.

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Yeah. We played a couple of times, but it's been a while.

Q. Like 2019 maybe?

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Yeah. It's been a while. I think last time I played against her was the US Open, qualis, 2019 probably. Yeah. I lost one time for sure.

Q. I think you guys were 2-2.

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Yeah. I didn't check. I'm going to check after this. I'm curious, now, to know our history.

**But she tries to bring all the balls back, and she did drop shots today and trying to change the rhythm of my game. So that's challenging.**

Q. This is kind of a similar question, but it's about another Victoria, one that's not in the tournament. You've played Victoria Mboko a few times, probably three times, twice this year already. You had a tough match in Adelaide. Can you speak about her game? I know she's had a massive rise. But seeing that you've faced her, what makes her so challenging and maybe why she's had this ascent?

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** I don't really get why you have to talk about her now, if she's not in the tournament.

Q. How does your mindset change when you go from 250 to a 500 or 1000 or Grand Slam? Is it the same every time you're coming in or is it different?

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**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** No. It's definitely different coming to big tournaments, like 1000s or Grand Slams. It's different preparation, different focus. We have some tournaments, like 500, 250 which can get you more matches so you can prepare yourself better for the big ones and more important ones. So every tournament, I would say, is different.

Q. Anna, did your training change any for clay season?

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Definitely.

Q. Can you talk about that?

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Yeah. It's different game, different -- you have to be more patient. So you have to practice different.

Q. What do you focus on physically?

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Well, physically you have to be more -- have more endurance, more cardio on clay. Yeah, just be ready for longer rallies.

Q. The prize money in this tournament, they have committed to 2.3 million dollars in prize money, which brings them to sort of match the average of the ATP Tour, basically having equal prize money, and it's the choice of the tournament to do that. What do you think about that sort of decision by the tournament to do that, and are you hoping that other tournaments see what this is doing, especially on the WTA Tour?

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** Yeah. I didn't know that. I'm not very focused about prize money situation. But it's great. It's great for women's sport, and hopefully the rest of the tournaments will get inspired and try to improve as well.

Q. You come to Charleston a few times. Just curious about what makes this tournament, I guess, a good tournament for you to play?

**ANNA KALINSKAYA:** I love the city. I feel people are very friendly. For all the players, I feel like it's very cozy here. So you feel less pressure.

And this tournament feels like, I don't know, like maybe also coming from Indian Wells and Miami where you see so many people combine the events, being here just as girls, it's more peaceful.

End of Interview

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