



Press release
For immediate release

Xavier Massotte and Erik Schinnerer Kick Off the Tournament

Repentigny, August 29, 2026 – **The first featured match on Centre Court pitted Longueuil’s Xavier Massotte against American Erik Schinnerer. Spectators in attendance were treated to quite a battle.**

In the first set, the Quebecer prevailed, winning 7–5. Massotte continued his momentum by taking a 5–2 lead, but the American was not finished. He won the next five games to take the set 7–5. The third set was one-sided in favor of the American, who won 6–2.

It is worth noting that the first-round matches featured, among others, qualifiers and players who received wild cards from Tennis Canada. The stage was therefore set for these athletes to advance to the second round and face the seeded players.

Centre Court Results

The first match on Centre Court featured Quebecer Ève Thibault, who received a Tennis Canada wild card, against Sophia Budacsek (USA). After a three-hour battle, Thibault, who trains at Momentum Tennis Academy, won the match 6–4, 2–6, 6–4.

After the second set, the 16-year-old Repentigny native regained her composure and took a 5–2 lead. However, the American fought her way back, preventing Thibault from closing out the match. In the end, Thibault secured the victory by breaking Budacsek in front of her supporters and friends who had come to cheer her on.

Canadians Advancing in the Tournament

In addition to Ève Thibault, two other Canadian women are advancing in the main draw.

Clémence Mercier (CAN), 6-1, 6-1
Lina Bezza (MAR) (Q)

A member of Canada's national development program, Clémence Mercier continues to make progress on the international circuit. Currently ranked No. 130 in the junior world rankings, she continues to climb the standings. Mercier has demonstrated tremendous character and competitiveness at several competitions, including winning a singles title in 2025 and five doubles titles in 2025. According to Tennis Canada, she is a player to watch closely, especially in front of her home fans.

Andrea Cabio (CAN), 6-3, 6-0

Ariana Morris (USA), Q

Canadians Advancing in the Tournament

Ranak Pajpani (CAN), Q, 6-3, 6-3

Andy Tchinda Ketché (CAN) WC

Antoine Clavel (CAN) WC, 6-4, 0-6, 6-2

Rowan Qalbani (USA)

Antoine Gagné (CAN), 2-6, 6-2, 6-4

Samim Filiz (TUR)

Quincy Yao (CAN), 6-2, 6-4

Nicolas Pedraza (USA)

Thomas O'Neill (CAN) WC 6-3, 7-5

Aaron-David Mefire Younzwe (LL)

Players to Watch Tomorrow

In the second round, the favorites in both the girls' and boys' draws will make their entrance into the tournament. Tournament details and schedules are available at itjr.ca.

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