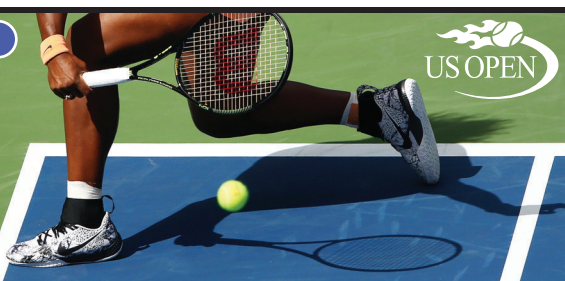


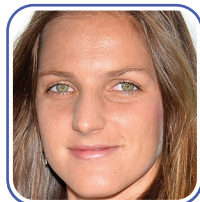
U.S. Open: Women's preview 2017



Karolina Pliskova

Simona Halep

Garbine Muguruza Angelique Kerber



Aiming for maiden major title in bid to retain No.1 rank – finalist here last year, losing to **Kerber**



U.S Open semi-finalist in 2015. Needs to find mental fortitude to clinch first major title



Cincinnati victory over **Halep** will inspire Wimbledon winner to improve on second round loss last season



Shock early exit in Cincinnati highlights struggle for form which led her to two Slams in 2016

| PLAYER RECORD* | Pliskova | Halep | Muguruza | Kerber |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|----------|--------|
| 2017 win-loss | 42-12 | 39-12 | 39-15 | 25-17 |
| 2017 titles | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Career titles (total) | 9 | 15 | 5 | 10 |
| Grand Slams | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |

MAJOR HOPES: With **Maria Sharapova** (right) set to play her first Grand Slam since serving suspension, and seven different finalists in previous four majors, battle for success at Flushing Meadows promises to be compelling

Wimbledon: Garbine Muguruza ESP

bt Venus Williams USA 7-5, 6-0

Roland Garros: Jelana Ostapenko LAT

Simona Halep ROM 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

Australian Open: Serena Williams USA

Venus Williams USA 6-4, 6-4

U.S. Open: Angelique Kerber GER

Karolina Pliskova CZE 6-3, 4-6, 6-4

Pictures:
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