

Williams sisters battle for Australian Open Victory

Tennis sisters Serena and Venus Williams are set to face off in the 2017 Australian Open after beating semifinal opponents.

Both sisters defeated their opponents Wednesday in the second round of women's semifinals. Now, the Williams sisters will travel back to Melbourne Park to compete against each other for the second time in the Australian Open. Serena Williams defeated her sister in 2003, when she clinched her first Australian title. The sisters prove to be each other's toughest competition.

"Nobody has ever beaten me as much as Venus has," Serena Williams said. "I just feel like no matter what happens, we've won... A Williams is going to win this tournament."

This year, Serena Williams is competing for a record of 23 Grand Slam titles. Venus Williams, 36, is the oldest player to reach an Australian Open Women's final. She has not been in a Grand Slam final since being defeated by her sister at the 2009 Wimbledon Tournament. Out of eight total Grand Slam finals against Serena Williams, Venus Williams has lost six.

"When I'm playing on the court with her, I think I'm playing, like, the best competitor in the game," Venus Williams said.

In 2011, Venus Williams was diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease that causes joint and muscle pain. However, she refuses to let her debilitating illness hold her back.

"Everyone has their moment in the sun," Venus Williams said. "Maybe mine has gone on a while. I'd like to keep that going."

Although Venus and Serena Williams may be each other's toughest competition, they are also each other's biggest supporters.

"Obviously I was really proud of Venus. I was so happy for her," Serena Williams said. "For us both to be in the final is the biggest dream come true for us."