



Osaka and Serena through to Aus Open 2nd round

February 09, 2021

Former Australian Open tennis champions Serena Williams and Naomi Osaka eased into the second round, after winning their respective opening matches of the tournament. There is a different feel to the event this year with several safety precautions in place.

1. Much work has gone into ensuring the first tennis grand slam of the year goes ahead.
 2. And the Australian Open is finally underway with players, officials and 30,000 fans in Melbourne for day one.
 3. Extra precautions were in place inside the venue for those spectators lucky enough to be watching on the main showcourts.
 4. Serena Williams opened her bid for that elusive record-equaling 24th major title with a comfortable straight sets win over Laura Siegemund, dropping just 2 games in the process.
 5. Another former Australian Open champion safely through to round 2 is Naomi Osaka.
 6. She made light work of her opponent Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in just over an hour.
 7. Fans watching on Rod Laver Arena weren't required to wear masks and Osaka was pleased to have them there.
- "It did remind me of last year so that for me is something really positive to take in and all in all I think just, I don't know, I haven't walked around the grounds or anything so I don't know what it feels like to be a person in the stands, like a spectator. But for me as a player, it felt pretty normal."
8. Organizers have several safety checks in operation for the two-week event.
 9. More than 800 hand sanitizer dispensers have also been installed together with QR code checks, click and collect food and drink orders and daily deep cleaning.