





Bernadette Cynthia Szócs

Nickname:	Bernie
Nation:	Romanian 
Date of birth:	5 March 1995
Height:	159 cm
Place of birth:	Târgu Mureș, România
Playing hand:	right 
Style of play:	Offensive, Aggressive, Right-
Handed Shakehand Grip	
Coach:	Ionuț Seni
Current world ranking (week 51 - 2024):	13
Current European ranking (December 2024):	1
Clubs as the active player(s):	Ahmedabad SG Pipers

Senior Career Highlights

2024:

- **Europe Top 16 Cup** (Montreux, Switzerland):

Advanced to the semifinals of the 2024 Europe Top 16 Cup.

- **European Championships:**

Secured **silver** in women's singles at the European Championships, losing to Austria's Sofia Polcanova with 1:4.

2023:

- **European Games** (Kraków, Poland):

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Achieved **gold in women's singles**.

- **WTT Contender Zagreb:**

She **reached the finals** of the women's singles event, adding another major achievement to her résumé.

2022:

- **European Championships:**

Bernadette secured a gold medal in women's doubles.

- **WTT Feeder Events:**

She secured multiple podium finishes, including a **gold medal in women's singles** at WTT Feeder Düsseldorf, reflecting her competitive edge internationally.

2021:

- **European Team Championships:**

Bernadette played a crucial role in securing the gold medal in the team event.

- **WTT Star Contender Doha:**

She advanced to the **semifinals in women's singles**, competing fiercely against some of the world's best players.

2018:

- **Europe Top 16 Cup (Montreux, Switzerland):**

She became the champion in women's singles at the Europe Top 16 Cup in Montreux, Switzerland, the first Romanian to win the title since 1995.

- **ITTF World Tour Events:**

She achieved **multiple quarterfinal and semifinal appearances**, establishing herself as a consistent performer on the international stage.

2017:

- **ITTF Challenge Brazil Open:**

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Szőcs won her first senior international singles title at the ITTF Challenge Brazil Open in São Paulo.

Breakthrough Moments and Achievements

- **2023 European Games Double Gold:**

Winning women's singles and team gold medals in Kraków was monumental, confirming her as a leading force in European table tennis.

- **2018 Europe Top 16 Cup Victory:**

This triumph marked her breakthrough on the continental level, ending Romania's long title drought in the competition and elevating her international status.

- **2017 ITTF Challenge Brazil Open Title:**

Her first senior international title in São Paulo was a launchpad for subsequent successes.

- **Consistent Team Contributions:**

Throughout multiple European Championships and World Team events, Bernadette has been a critical player for Romania, delivering clutch performances in high-pressure matches.

Medals and Titles

- **European Games:**

2023 Kraków–Małopolska, Gold medal – first place, Singles

2023 Kraków–Małopolska, Gold medal – first place, Team

2019 Minsk, Silver medal – second place, Mixed doubles

2019 Minsk, Silver medal – second place, Team

2023 Kraków–Małopolska, Bronze medal – third place, Mixed doubles

- **European Championships:**

2017 Luxembourg, Gold medal – first place, Team

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- 2019 Nantes, Gold medal – first place, Team
- 2022 Munich, Gold medal – first place, Doubles
- 2011 Gdańsk–Sopot, Silver medal – second place, Team
- 2013 Schwechat, Silver medal – second place, Team
- 2015 Yekaterinburg, Silver medal – second place, Team
- 2022 Munich, Silver medal – second place, Mixed Doubles
- 2023 Malmö, Silver medal – second place, Team
- 2024 Linz, Silver medal – second place, Singles
- 2024 Linz, Silver medal – second place, Doubles
- 2012 Buzău, Bronze medal – third place, Mixed doubles
- 2016 Budapest, Bronze medal – third place, Mixed Doubles

- **Europe Top-16:**

- 2018 Montreux, Gold medal – first place, Singles
- 2019 Montreux, Silver medal – second place, Singles
- 2021 Thessaloniki, Bronze medal – third place, Singles
- 2022 Montreux, Bronze medal – third place, Singles
- 2024 Montreux, Bronze medal – third place, Singles

Junior Career and Early Achievements

2012:

- **European Youth Championships** (Schwechat, Austria):

She secured gold in the junior girls' singles category, reaffirming her status as one of Europe's brightest young talents. Additionally, she contributed to Romania's gold medal in the junior girls' team event, showcasing her leadership and team spirit.

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2011:

- **World Junior Circuit Finals (Argentina):**

She reached the final round.

2010:

- **European Youth Championships (Istanbul, Turkey):**

Szócs won bronze in the junior girls' singles at the European Youth Championships in Istanbul, Turkey. She also won gold in the junior mixed doubles event.

2009:

- **European Cadet Championships (Prague, Czech Republic):**

Bernadette demonstrated exceptional talent by securing gold medals in the cadet girls' singles and doubles events, establishing herself as a rising star in European table tennis.

Breakthrough Moments and Achievements

- **2012 European Youth Championships (Schwechat, Austria):**

Junior Girls' Singles: Bernadette Szócs secured the gold medal, marking a significant milestone in her junior career.

Junior Girls' Team: She played a pivotal role in Romania's team, contributing to their gold medal victory.

- **2011 European Youth Championships (Kazan, Russia):**

Mixed Doubles: Szócs clinched the gold medal in mixed doubles, showcasing her versatility and skill in partnership events.

- **European Youth Championships (Istanbul, Turkey):**

Mixed Doubles: She achieved gold in the mixed doubles event, demonstrating her prowess in collaborative play.

Junior Girls' Singles: Szócs secured a bronze medal, highlighting her competitive edge in individual events.

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- **2009 European Cadet Championships (Prague, Czech Republic):**

Cadet Girls' Singles: Bernadette dominated the event, earning the gold medal and establishing herself as a formidable player in her age category.

Cadet Girls' Doubles: She also secured the gold medal in doubles, further emphasizing her dominance in the cadet division.

Medals and Titles

- **Universiade:**

2015 Gwangju, Bronze medal – third place, Singles

- **World Junior Championships:**

2011 Manama, Bronze medal – third place, Doubles

2012 Hyderabad, Bronze medal – third place, Doubles

2013 Rabat, Bronze medal – third place, Team

- **European Youth Championships:**

2011 Kazan, Gold medal – first place, Singles

2011 Kazan, Gold medal – first place, Doubles

2012 Schwechat, Gold medal – first place, Singles

2012 Schwechat, Gold medal – first place, Doubles

2012 Schwechat, Gold medal – first place, Team

2013 Ostrava, Gold medal – first place, Team

2011 Kazan, Silver medal – second place, Team

2013 Ostrava, Bronze medal – third place, Singles

2013 Ostrava, Bronze medal – third place, Doubles

2008 Terni, Gold medal – first place, Team

2009 Prague, Gold medal – first place, Doubles

2010 Istanbul, Gold medal – first place, Team

2010 Istanbul, Gold medal – first place, Singles

2010 Istanbul, Gold medal – first place, Doubles

2006 Sarajevo, Silver medal – second place, Team

2007 Bratislava, Silver medal – second place, Doubles

2008 Terni, Silver medal – second place, Singles

2008 Terni, Silver medal – second place, Mixed doubles

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2006 Sarajevo, Bronze medal – third place, Mixed doubles
2007 Bratislava, Bronze medal – third place, Team
2008 Terni, Bronze medal – third place, Doubles
2009 Prague, Bronze medal – third place, Singles

- **Europe Youth Top-10:**

2009 Rotterdam, Gold medal – first place, Cadet singles
2010 Topoľčany, Gold medal – first place, Cadet singles
2012 Buzău, Gold medal – first place, Junior singles
2013 Terni, Gold medal – first place, Junior singles

2024: Detailed Overview and Achievements

Medals and Titles

October 2024: European Table Tennis Championships (Linz, Austria)

- **Women's Singles – Silver Medal:**

Bernadette secured her first singles medal at the European Championships, reaching the final but finishing as the runner-up.

- **Women's Doubles – Silver Medal:**

Partnering with Austria's Sofia Polcanova, Bernadette Szőcs reached the Women's Doubles final.

August 2024: Summer Olympics (Paris, France)

- **Women's Singles – Round of 16:**

Bernadette advanced to the Round of 16, demonstrating her competitive edge on the Olympic stage.

June 2024: WTT Champions (Bangkok, Thailand)

- **Women's Singles – Quarter Finals:**

Bernadette reached the quarterfinals, showcasing her skill against top-tier opponents.

May 2024: ITTF World Team Championships (Busan, South Korea)

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- **Team Romania – Quarterfinalist:**

As a key player, Bernadette contributed to Romania's advancement to the quarterfinals in the team event.

March 2024: WTT Star Contender (Doha, Qatar)

- **Women's Singles – Quarter Finals:**

She advanced to the quarterfinals, displaying tactical prowess against formidable opponents.

Breakthrough Moments and Achievements

- **European Championships – Silver Medal:**

Bernadette's performance at the European Championships in Linz was a standout achievement. She secured silver in Women's Doubles and demonstrated her competitive excellence.

- **Paris Olympics – Deep Runs:**

Competing in her third Olympics, Bernadette advanced to the Round of 16 in singles and reached the quarterfinals in Mixed Doubles, highlighting her ability to compete against top global players.

- **WTT Champions in Bangkok:**

Bernadette Szócs participated in the **WTT Star Contender Bangkok 2024** event. She achieved a notable victory against **Hoi Kem Doo**, winning in straight sets: 11-5, 12-10, 11-6.

- **Steady Presence in ITTF and WTT Events:**

Throughout 2024, Bernadette maintained a high level of play, consistently advancing to the latter stages of tournaments and demonstrating her resilience and skill against various opponents.

Biography and Career

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Born into a family with a strong sporting background, Bernadette Szőcs began playing table tennis at the age of nine. Her early dedication to the sport was evident as she rapidly ascended through the junior ranks, achieving significant milestones such as a fifth-place finish at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

Transitioning to senior competitions, Szőcs's career gained momentum with notable victories, including her first senior gold at the 2017 ITTF Challenge Series in São Paulo. Her triumph at the 2018 CCB Europe Top 16 Cup further solidified her status as a leading figure in European table tennis.

Throughout her career, Szőcs has been recognized for her positive mindset and adaptability, competing in various leagues worldwide and continuously refining her skills. Her commitment to the sport and her country is exemplified by her contributions to Romania's successes in team events and her accolades on the international stage.

Early Life and Background

Bernadette Szőcs was born on March 5, 1995, in Târgu Mureș, Romania. She began playing table tennis at the age of nine, quickly demonstrating a natural talent for the sport. Supported by her family and coaches, she dedicated herself to rigorous training, which paved the way for her early successes in junior competitions and set the foundation for her illustrious career.

Playing Style and Personality

Szőcs is known for her offensive playing style, characterized by agility, quick reflexes, and strategic shot placement. She uses a right-handed shakehand grip.

Her positive mindset and winning mentality have been pivotal in her ascent up the world rankings. Off the table, she is recognized for her dedication, professionalism, and ability to maintain composure under pressure, qualities that have endeared her to fans and peers alike.

Legacy and Future Goals

As of December 2024, Bernadette Szőcs notes her impact on the next generation of athletes, especially women in sports. This is supported by her achievements and public recognition. Her past performances suggest a continued commitment to excellence.

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Conclusions

As of December 2024, Bernadette Szócs has solidified her status as a leading figure in international table tennis. Her career is distinguished by numerous medals, titles, and significant performances, underscoring her dominance in the sport.

In April 2024, Bernadette Szócs achieved a career-high ranking of **8th**, but by the end of the year, her ranking dropped slightly. She remained the highest-ranked European female player at **9th**, as the top spots continued to be dominated by Asian athletes.

Her dedication and sportsmanship have not only contributed to her success but have also inspired the next generation of athletes, particularly women in sports. Looking ahead, Szócs aims to attain greater success in major competitions, including the World Championships and the Olympics, while continuing to enhance her doubles partnerships.

With her unwavering passion and determination, Bernadette Szócs is poised to make a lasting impact on the sport for years to come.

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