

= Federer ? Nadal rivalry =

The Federer ? Nadal rivalry ( known by many as Fedal ) is between two professional tennis players , Roger Federer of Switzerland and Rafael Nadal of Spain . They are currently engaged in a storied rivalry , which many consider to be the greatest in tennis history . They have played 34 times , most recently in the 2015 Swiss Indoors final , and Nadal leads their twelve @-@ year @-@ old rivalry with an overall record of 23 ? 11 .

Federer and Nadal are the only pair of men to have finished six consecutive calendar years as the top two ranked players on the ATP Tour , which they did from 2005 ? 10 . This included a record 211 consecutive weeks sharing the top two rankings from July 2005 to August 2009 .

Of their 34 matches , 15 have been on clay , 16 have been on hard court , and three have been on grass . Federer has a winning record on grass ( 2 ? 1 ) , while Nadal leads on clay ( 13 ? 2 ) and hard court ( 9 ? 7 ) . Nadal leads the head @-@ to @-@ head of their 11 Grand Slam matches ( 9 ? 2 ) , with five of these wins on the clay courts of Roland Garros , and both losses on grass at Wimbledon .

As tournament seedings are based on rankings , with the top two seeds placed on opposite sides of the draw , 21 of Nadal and Federer 's 34 matches have been in tournament finals , including an all @-@ time record eight Grand Slam finals and 10 Masters Series finals . Another nine have been semifinals , two have been quarterfinals , with only two taking place before the last @-@ 8 stage . In 27 matches out of 34 between Nadal and Federer , the winner of the first set won the match .

From 2006 to 2008 they played in every French Open and Wimbledon final . Their 2008 Wimbledon final was lauded as the greatest match ever by many long @-@ time tennis analysts .

= = History = =

= = = 2004 ? 2005 = = =

Federer and Nadal played their first match in March 2004 at the third round of the Miami Masters . Nadal , only 17 years old and ranked No. 34 at the time , surprised many by beating the then No. 1 in straight sets . Their second meeting was one year later , again in Miami , but this time in a best @-@ of @-@ five @-@ set final . Federer recovered from a two @-@ set deficit to win in five sets .

They played again two months later in the semifinals of the French Open , which was their first match on clay . Nadal defeated Federer in four sets en route to his first Grand Slam title .

= = = 2006 = = =

In 2006 , Nadal and Federer faced each other in six matches .

Nadal won the first four , beginning with the Dubai final in February played on hard court . This was Federer 's first loss of the year and ended his Open era record of 56 consecutive wins on hard courts .

The clay season ensued , and Nadal continued his dominance on clay , defeating Federer in the finals of the Monte Carlo Masters , the Rome Masters , and the French Open , in what was their first Grand Slam final . Federer won the first set quickly , but Nadal fought back and took the next three sets to capture his second French Open title . In the Rome final , Federer held two championship points on Nadal 's serve at 5 ? 6 in the 5th set , but failed to convert . Federer then led 5 ? 3 in the 5th @-@ set tiebreaker , but Nadal won the next 4 points to claim the Championship .

They faced off again a month later in the final of the Wimbledon Championships , which was their first meeting on grass . Federer won in four sets to capture his fourth consecutive Wimbledon title .

They did not meet again until the semifinals of the year @-@ end Masters Cup . Federer won in straight sets , en route to his third Masters Cup title in four years . At year 's end , Nadal 's career head @-@ to @-@ head advantage had risen to 6 ? 3 .

=== 2007 ===

Nadal and Federer faced each other five times in 2007 , and Federer won three of their matches .

For the second straight year , Federer and Nadal played in three finals on clay . Nadal won the first meeting in straight sets , winning his third consecutive Monte Carlo title . A few weeks later they met at the Hamburg Masters , where Federer defeated Nadal for the first time on clay and ended his 81 @-@ match winning streak on clay .

Their next encounter was the French Open final , and Nadal won their much @-@ anticipated rematch in four sets , capturing his third consecutive French Open title .

Their last two meetings in 2007 were also a repeat of 2006 : the finals of Wimbledon and the semifinals of the Masters Cup . Once again , Federer won both matches , though their Wimbledon final lasted five sets , instead of the previous year 's four sets .

By the close of the year Federer narrowed the head @-@ to @-@ head record to 6 ? 8 .

=== 2008 ===

Federer and Nadal played four times in 2008 , and Nadal won all four times , extending his career advantage to 12 ? 6 . For the third straight year , Federer and Nadal played in three clay @-@ court finals . Nadal beat Federer in the Monte Carlo Masters for the third straight year , capturing his Open era record fourth consecutive title there . A few weeks later Nadal avenged his only clay @-@ court loss to Federer by defeating him in three sets for his first Hamburg Masters title. Federer had double break leads in the first sets of both Monte Carlo and Hamburg but could not close out the sets .

Also for the third straight year , they played in the finals of the French Open . Nadal won his fourth consecutive French Open title , by a score of 6 ? 1 , 6 ? 3 , 6 ? 0 . The scoreline puts the match among the most one @-@ sided in Grand Slam finals history . Federer suffered from mononucleosis in 2007 and 2008 which seriously inhibited his energy levels and movement through most of the early hard court and clay season , and his fitness and training levels didn 't recover until sometime in 2009 .

Nadal and Federer also met in the finals of Wimbledon for the third straight year , in the most anticipated match of their rivalry . Amidst rain delays , they played the longest final in Wimbledon history ( 4 hours and 48 minutes ) , and Nadal captured the title by winning the fifth set in near darkness . This match broke Federer 's Open Era @-@ record 65 match winning streak on grass , which spanned more than five years .

=== 2009 ===

Federer and Nadal played each other only twice in 2009 , splitting their matches .

Both players began the year strong , reaching the finals of the Australian Open . This was the first hard @-@ court Grand Slam final for Nadal , but Federer was undefeated in eight hard @-@ court finals ( 5 US Open , 3 Australian ) . The final was a long ( 4 hours and 23 minutes ) and competitive in the first four sets with Nadal pulling away decisively in the fifth set to secure his first hard court championship .

Federer rebounded against Nadal at the Madrid Masters ( their first match on Spanish soil ) , defeating him in the final in straight sets . This was a pivotal match because it broke Nadal 's five @-@ match winning streak against Federer . The victory by Federer also ended Nadal 's 33 @-@ match winning streak on clay and foreshadowed the Swiss ' historic victory at Roland Garros , which completed his Career Grand Slam .

=== 2010 ===

In 2010 , Federer and Nadal played twice , with Nadal winning the first and Federer winning the second match .

The two met in the final of the Madrid Open , one year after their last match , and Nadal defeated

Federer in straight sets .

Federer and Nadal met in the 2010 ATP World Tour Finals ' final , marking their third meeting at the year @-@ end championships and their first ever meeting in the finals . Federer continued his indoor dominance against Nadal , winning in three sets . This victory gave Federer a record @-@ tying fifth title at the year @-@ end tournament .

== 2011 ==

Federer and Nadal played four singles matches , with Nadal winning the first three matches and Federer winning the last match . Their lone doubles match was at the BNP Paribas Open . Federer , partnering with Stanislas Wawrinka , defeated Nadal and Marc López in the semifinals .

In their first singles match of 2011 , the two met in the semifinals of the Miami Masters , where Nadal won in straight sets .

They met in the semifinal at the Mutua Madrid Open , and Nadal won in three sets .

They then met in the finals of the 2011 French Open , their first Grand Slam meeting since the 2009 Australian Open final . Although it was a competitive match , Nadal again defeated Federer in four sets to win his tenth Major title and sixth French Open crown .

Their final meeting of the year came in the round @-@ robin stage of the 2011 ATP World Tour Finals . Their match , a rematch of the previous year 's final , saw Federer win a lopsided match in straight sets .

== 2012 ==

Federer and Nadal first met during 2012 in the semifinals of the 2012 Australian Open . Federer was leading by a set and a break before a 20 @-@ minute fireworks delay , due to the celebrations of Australia Day , changed the momentum of the match . Nadal improved his hard @-@ court record over Federer with a win in four sets .

They next met in the semifinals of the Indian Wells Masters , where Federer won the match in straight sets en route to claiming his fourth Indian Wells Masters title .

In August 2012 , Nadal revealed his doubt that he would be able to play in the 2012 US Open because of a knee injury which had prevented him from playing since Wimbledon . Federer expressed concern for Nadal , and Nadal ultimately withdrew .

== 2013 ==

Federer and Nadal met four times in 2013 with Nadal prevailing on every occasion against a severely hampered Federer due to two serious back injuries sustained during the 2013 season .

Federer and Nadal met for the first time during the quarterfinals of the Indian Wells Masters . It is the earliest the pair have met in a tournament since 2004 . Federer entered the match having suffered a back injury in the previous round and was defeated in straight sets .

On 1 April , by winning the Miami Masters , Andy Murray passed Federer in the ATP Rankings for second place . This marked the first time since 10 November 2003 , that neither Federer nor Nadal was ranked in the ATP top 2 , a span of an unprecedented 490 weeks .

Nadal then defeated Federer in the 2013 Rome Masters final in two sets .

They finally played a match at the 2013 Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati , where Nadal unseated the five @-@ time champion in the quarterfinals after Federer played a dazzling first set with crisply struck groundstrokes . At several points Federer had openings in Nadal service games in the second set , including a 0 ? 30 chance , but Nadal came back to win in three sets . Federer had been hampered by a back injury during most of the summer and had just switched back to his old racquet after experimenting with a larger frame in his previous two tournaments .

Nadal and Federer met in semi finals of the indoor event , 2013 ATP World Tour Finals in the O2 arena . Nadal beat Federer in straight sets . This would be Federer 's last career match played with his 90 @-@ inch racquet before permanently upgrading to a larger frame .

== 2014 ? 2015 ==

Federer and Nadal had their only meeting of the 2014 season in the semi finals of the Australian Open . Nadal won in straight sets and improved his record to 3 ? 0 against Federer at the Australian Open ( 9 ? 2 overall in majors ) . This was the first Grand Slam tournament ( and only second tournament overall ) that Federer played after switching to a new larger racquet for the first time in his career .

In November 2015 , Federer defeated Nadal in 3 sets at the final of the Swiss Indoors , this was their first encounter on Swiss soil , as Federer captured a 7th title in his hometown of Basel . It was Federer 's first victory over Nadal in over 3 and a half years , having lost the previous 5 meetings .

== Analysis ==

== Significant aspects ==

The rivalry between Federer and Nadal has been a huge part of both men 's careers . Their Grand Slam tournament histories are of particular interest , especially their all @-@ time record of eight finals encounters . This includes playing French Open and Wimbledon finals for three consecutive years ( 2006 ? 08 ) , culminating in what is widely considered the greatest match in tennis history at Wimbledon 2008 . Nadal , who had to defeat Federer during each of his first six Grand Slam title runs , possesses a 6 ? 2 advantage in their finals encounters plus three victories in semifinals .

Nadal denied Federer a Career Grand Slam plus two potential Calendar Year Grand Slams ( 2006 ? 07 ) by defeating him at the French Open every year from 2005 ? 08 . Federer would complete a Career Grand Slam by winning the French title in 2009 after Nadal was upset in the fourth round . Meanwhile , Federer twice denied Nadal from becoming the first man since Björn Borg in 1980 to win the " Channel Slam " ( both the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year ) by defeating him in their first two Wimbledon finals , but Nadal succeeded the following year . This was the first of three combined Channel Slams with Federer accomplishing it in 2009 followed by Nadal 's second in 2010 . Federer has also prevented Nadal from winning the Year End Championships by defeating him in the 2010 finals and eliminating Nadal from the tournament in the 2006 , 2007 , and 2013 semifinals preventing Nadal from becoming only the second man after Andre Agassi to win a Career Grand Slam , a gold singles Olympic medal , and the Year End Championships , a distinction dubbed as a " Career Super Slam " by Sports Illustrated .

Their record six consecutive calendar years atop the rankings from 2005 ? 10 was due to their unprecedented combined performance in the Grand Slam and Masters Series tournaments . During this span they captured a combined record 21 of the 24 Grand Slam tournament titles ( 12 for Federer , 9 for Nadal ) , including a record 11 consecutive titles from 2005 ? 07 . They also dominated the Masters Series , combining for 31 of the 54 titles ( 18 for Nadal , 13 for Federer ) , including 8 of 9 in 2005 ( 4 each ) . Additionally , Federer won 4 of 6 year @-@ end tournaments .

Finally , both men not only possess Open era records for consecutive wins on a single surface ? Federer on both grass ( 65 ) and hard courts ( 56 ) , Nadal on clay courts ( 81 ) ? but each of these streaks was broken by the other man . Their respective dominance on grass and clay was the impetus for the " Battle of Surfaces " , an exhibition match on a half @-@ grass , half @-@ clay court , which Nadal won in May 2007 when both the grass and clay streaks were still active .

Nearly half of the meetings between Federer and Nadal have come on clay which is statistically Nadal 's best surface and one of Federer 's weaker surfaces . Of their 34 matches , 15 have been on clay , 16 have been on hard court , and 3 have been on grass . Federer has a winning record on his best surface , grass ( 2 ? 1 ) , while Nadal leads on clay ( 13 ? 2 ) and hard court ( 9 ? 7 ) . Nadal leads in Grand Slam Tournament matches ( 9 ? 2 ) , with five of these wins coming on the clay courts of Roland Garros . On hard courts and grass , Federer holds an edge in overall career win percentage , but trails Nadal in head @-@ to @-@ head results on hard courts .

Analysts , commentators and pundits increasingly recognize that Nadal is just a bad matchup for Federer as the heavy topspin created by Nadal 's groundstrokes combined with his strategy of directing the majority of his serves & groundstrokes to Federer 's single handed backhand keeps Federer on the defensive and making it harder for Federer to use his aggressive groundstrokes to dominate baseline rallies as he typically does against other opponents . Federer says he is a " different player due to Nadal 's presence " citing Nadal 's game as a major reason for improvements in areas of his own game .

Two factors that the Nadal head @-@ to @-@ head advantage is built on include domination on clay and domination during two seasons when Federer was hobbled by illness and injury . The 13 ? 2 record on clay masks a close record of 10 ? 9 on all other surfaces . Also Nadal 's 8 ? 0 advantage in 2008 and 2013 , when Federer was clearly hindered by mononucleosis and severe back injuries respectively , distorts a competitive 15 ? 11 record in all other years .

== Comparison of Grand Slam tournament titles ==

As of 2015 , Roger Federer holds the all @-@ time record for the most Grand Slam tournament titles with 17 . Federer 's Grand Slam tournament titles include 9 on hard courts , 7 on grass , and 1 on clay . Nadal has 14 in total : 9 on clay , 3 on hard courts , and 2 on grass .

Both players have won the Career Grand Slam ( winning all four majors at least once ) .

== Comparison of Year @-@ End Championships ==

As of 2016 , Roger Federer holds the record for Year @-@ End Championship titles with 6 . While Nadal has not won a Year @-@ End Championship , he has made the finals twice , in 2010 and 2013 . Federer defeated Nadal in the 2010 finals , 6 @-@ 3 , 3 @-@ 6 , 6 @-@ 1 and leads Nadal 4 @-@ 1 at the event .

== Comparison of Masters 1000 titles ==

Rafael Nadal holds 28 Masters 1000 titles , with 20 of his titles on clay and 8 on hard courts . Roger Federer has 24 , with 18 coming on hard courts and 6 on clay . Nadal is missing three Masters 1000 titles ( Miami , Shanghai , and Paris ) and Federer is missing two ( Monte Carlo , and Rome ) .

Nadal prevented Federer from winning Monte Carlo three times from 2006 to 2008 . He also beat Federer twice in the Rome finals , once in 2006 and again in 2013 . The 2006 Rome final , which was won by Nadal in a 5th @-@ set tiebreak , lasted for over five hours and is considered by some to be one of the greatest and most memorable matches ever contested on clay .

In 2005 , Federer prevented Nadal from winning Miami in a five @-@ set final . Nadal won the first and second sets , was up a break in the third set and was two points away from victory before Federer came back from two @-@ sets @-@ down to win . Nadal made it back to the Miami final in 2008 , 2011 , and 2014 but lost each time .

== Head @-@ to @-@ head tallies ==

The following is a breakdown of their head @-@ to @-@ head results :

All matches : Nadal , 23 ? 11

All finals : Nadal , 14 ? 7

Grand Slam matches : Nadal , 9 ? 2

Australian Open : Nadal , 3 ? 0

French Open : Nadal , 5 ? 0

Wimbledon : Federer , 2 ? 1

US Open : Have not met

Grand Slam finals : Nadal , 6 ? 2

Tennis Masters Cup / ATP World Tour Finals matches : Federer , 4 ? 1

Tennis Masters Cup / ATP World Tour Finals finals : Federer , 1 ? 0  
 ATP Masters Series / ATP World Tour Masters 1000 matches : Nadal , 12 ? 4  
 ATP Masters Series / ATP World Tour Masters 1000 finals : Nadal , 7 ? 3  
 ATP World Tour 500 / ATP International Series Gold matches : Tied , 1 ? 1  
 ATP World Tour 500 / ATP International Series Gold finals : Tied , 1 ? 1  
 Best of five set matches : Nadal , 11 ? 3  
 Five @-@ set matches : Nadal , 3 ? 2  
 Winning the match after losing 1st set : Nadal , 6 ? 2  
 Best of three set matches : Nadal , 12 ? 8  
 Outdoor courts : Nadal , 22 ? 6  
 Indoor courts : Federer , 5 ? 1  
 Tie @-@ breaks : Nadal , 11 ? 10

== Head @-@ to @-@ head results on each court surface ==

Clay courts : Nadal , 13 ? 2  
 Hard courts : Nadal , 9 ? 7  
 Outdoor : Nadal , 8 ? 2  
 Indoor : Federer , 5 ? 1  
 Grass courts : Federer , 2 ? 1

=== Clay ===

Nadal and Federer have played 15 of their 34 matches on clay with Nadal holding a 13 ? 2 advantage over Federer . From 2005 to 2008 , Nadal won every French Open , defeating Federer in each of those tournaments ( in the 2005 semifinal and the 2006 , 2007 , 2008 , 2011 finals ) , and won at least 2 of the 3 clay Masters events each year from 2005 ? 2010 , defeating Federer in 6 of those . Statistically , Nadal has the highest win percentage on clay of any player in ATP history . As a result , some analysts and players , such as Pat Cash and Conchita Martínez , consider Nadal the greatest clay @-@ court player ever . Nadal has won all of their seven meetings in best of five set matches on clay .

=== Grass ===

Federer has won the Wimbledon Championships seven times , and Nadal has won the championships twice . Five of Federer 's titles were consecutive titles ( from 2003 to 2007 ) , and the sixth and seventh titles were won in 2009 and 2012 . Federer and Nadal met in three consecutive Wimbledon finals from 2006 to 2008 ; Federer won the first two finals , while Nadal won the last one . The 2008 Wimbledon final has been lauded as the greatest match ever by many long @-@ time tennis analysts .

=== Hard ===

Nadal and Federer have played 16 of their 34 matches on hard courts , with Nadal holding a 9 ? 7 lead . An important distinction is the relative success of the two players on indoor and outdoor hard courts . In the former , Federer leads Nadal with a 5 ? 1 record , while on outdoor hard courts , Nadal leads 8 ? 2 . The quicker conditions and low bounce of the indoor hard courts fit Federer 's style , while the slower and high bouncing conditions of most outdoor ones favor Nadal . Federer has defeated Nadal in four out of five encounters they have had at the Year End Championships , including the 2010 final , which are played on indoor hardcourts .

Despite Nadal 's success on hard courts , some analysts have criticized his lack of consistency in reaching tournament finals ( especially the U.S.Open finals ) for skewing the overall head @-@ to @-@ head results . Nadal has said that Federer is the " favourite " on " these kinds of surfaces " (

referring to their match at the 2012 Australian Open ) .

= = = Skill comparisons = = =

Federer is considered by many to be the greatest tennis player of all time while Nadal 's performance on clay has prompted many experts to regard him as the greatest clay court player and one of the best tennis players of all time .

Federer has been more successful than Nadal on fast courts because he hits a flatter forehand and has a faster serve . Grass and indoor hard courts are one of the faster surfaces , so Federer 's flatter shots there result in a lower bouncing , faster moving trajectory . Thus , Nadal 's topspin is less effective on such faster courts , but is most effective on slower courts such as clay . Nadal has improved his serving speed and placement over the years , but Federer still serves faster on average and earns more aces and service winners , while Nadal has an overall stronger ground stroke game .

While Nadal is statistically weaker than Federer on both hard and grass courts , Nadal has nonetheless achieved considerable success on both surfaces , including notable wins at the 2008 Summer Olympics , Wimbledon ( 2008 and 2010 ) , the Australian Open ( 2009 ) , the US Open ( 2010 and 2013 ) , and at various hard court Masters series tournaments .

= = = Media and player commentary = = =

During interviews , many fellow and former players have regarded both Federer and Nadal as among the best tennis players of all time . In November 2010 , former player Björn Borg stated that he believed Federer to be the greatest player of all time , but " Rafa has the chance to be the greatest player " if he stays healthy .

Former player and commentator John McEnroe was of a similar opinion , noting in 2010 that " there is an argument to be made that Rafael Nadal may be the greatest player eventually , even possibly now . " He has subsequently adjusted his opinion on several occasions , in 2013 noting that he thought Nadal was " the greatest player that ever lived " but later in 2014 bunched Federer , Nadal , Laver and Sampras together as the greatest ever . In July 2015 , he reversed his opinion and again backed Roger Federer for the title .

At the press conference following his 9th record French Open win in 2014 and a total of 14 Slams , three shy of Federer 's 17 , Nadal said that he really does not care much about records , " I 'll follow my own path . Then , when my career is over , then we 'll count . "

In May 2014 , eight @-@ time Grand Slam champion Andre Agassi told Singapore 's Straits Times newspaper , via aljazeera.com : " I 'd put Nadal number one and Federer number two . Federer separated himself from the field for four years . He separated himself from Andy Roddick and Lleyton Hewitt . Nadal had to deal with Federer , Novak Djokovic , Andy Murray in the golden age of tennis . "

In November 2014 , former world number 1 player Andy Roddick , in noting his support for Federer , explained why he believes that head @-@ to @-@ head results are not a valid factor in determining the greatest of all time , " For me Roger Federer is still ahead in the greatest @-@ ever debate , with Rafael Nadal second . People talk about their head @-@ to @-@ head being the determining factor , but I can ? t comprehend a single match @-@ up being the deciding factor . It ? s about total wins at major tournaments , not an individual match @-@ up , in my mind . "

In December 2014 , Rafael Nadal 's uncle and coach , Toni Nadal , indicated to Spanish radio station Cadena COPE that he believed Federer to be the greatest of all time based on overall statistics and achievements , noting " I think he is ( the best of all @-@ time ) , the numbers say so . "

In March 2015 , former player Pete Sampras made similar arguments about Federer , " You look at the numbers of what he ? s been able to do , you have to say he ? s the greatest we ? ve seen " These comments were echoed by Boris Becker in July 2015 , " Great respect for Roger Federer ! He is our greatest of all time "

= = Relationship and competitive dynamic = =

Both Federer and Nadal 's personal and professional relationship is good @-@ natured and gracious . Though they are both highly competitive , they maintain a healthy regard for each other and have had virtually no source of personal animosity . The two have made slight criticisms of one another in the past , nevertheless . For example , Federer complained of Nadal 's slow , deliberate style of play on the eve of the 2008 Wimbledon final . Nadal criticized Federer before the 2012 Australian Open for his failure to be more vocal about players ' grievances on issues such as scheduling and prize money . He subsequently apologized for making his views public , however , and both players maintained that they still enjoyed a good relationship and had high respect for each other , which can often be seen in interviews . Nadal was also once seen watching Federer play a match in his box , and their family members would congratulate each other on match wins .

Despite their cordial relationship , both men have a somewhat different attitude towards their rivalry . When Federer was securely atop the tennis world he was ambivalent towards the notion of a rivalry with an opponent five years younger than himself . But after their memorable 2008 Wimbledon final he had no choice but to acknowledge its significance , even admitting " it definitely becomes more and more special the more times we play against each other . " A few weeks later , after Nadal had officially surpassed him in the rankings , Federer offered this compliment : " Look at what he had to achieve to get it . That 's what I like to see . " Nadal has always cherished the rivalry because he looks up to Federer as both a role model and a measuring stick for success .

When interest in their rivalry increased , both Federer and Nadal collaborated to arrange occasional charity exhibition matches to benefit their charities ' philanthropic interests . The most recent was the Match for Africa , played on 21 December 2010 in Zurich , Switzerland , which Federer won , and a follow @-@ up match played in Madrid on the following day , titled " Joining Forces for the Benefit of Children " , which Nadal won .

= = = Cultural impact = = =

The rivalry has also increased overall interest in tennis . The highly anticipated 2008 Wimbledon final drew strong television ratings for tennis in both the U.S. and across Europe . The match was also featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated , which was the first time in years that tennis had made its cover .

= = Pairing Federer and Nadal = =

= = = Significant achievements = = =

From the 2003 Wimbledon Championships to the 2011 French Open , Federer and Nadal have won an unprecedented 26 out of 32 Major titles . In this time , both men have also completed the Career Grand Slam ( Nadal has also completed the Career Golden Slam by winning the 2008 Beijing Olympics ) .

From Nadal 's first Grand Slam tournament victory at the 2005 French Open until the 2011 French Open , Federer and Nadal had won 22 of 25 Major titles ( 12 for Federer , 10 for Nadal ) . The exceptions were the 2008 and 2011 Australian Open , won by Novak Djokovic , and the 2009 US Open , won by Juan Martín del Potro .

Federer and Nadal are the only No. 1 and No. 2 pair in the open era to contest the French Open and Wimbledon men 's finals back to back in a calendar year . They are also the only pair in the history of tennis to contest both of these finals back to back for three consecutive years ( 2006 ? 08 ) .

In the history of tennis , Federer and Nadal are the only pair to face each other in eight Grand Slam singles finals ( 2006 ? 08 Wimbledon , 2006 ? 08 , 2011 French Open , 2009 Australian Open ) .



This broke the previous record of seven finals set by Bill Tilden and William Johnston ( 1919 ? 25 U.S. Championships ) . Their match at the 2012 Australian Open also marked a record 10th time two players had faced each other in Grand Slam men 's singles matches , tying with the record set by John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl . This record has now been surpassed by Federer @-@ Djokovic when they met for the 11th time in a Major at the 2012 Wimbledon semi @-@ finals .

Federer and Nadal are the only No. 1 and No. 2 pair to win 11 consecutive Grand Slam singles tournaments between them ( from the 2005 French Open to the 2007 US Open ) . In this period , Federer won 3 consecutive titles at both Wimbledon and the US Open and 2 consecutive titles at the Australian Open , while Nadal won 3 consecutive French Open titles .

During the open era , only two pairs of players have played each other in the final of the same Grand Slam singles tournament three consecutive years : Becker ? Edberg ( 1988 ? 90 Wimbledon ) and Federer @-@ Nadal ( 2006 ? 08 French Open and 2006 ? 08 Wimbledon ) .

Federer and Nadal are the only pair to win at least four consecutive finals at three different Majors during the same period ( 2005 ? 08 and 2010 ? 14 French Open for Nadal , 2003 ? 07 Wimbledon and 2004 ? 08 US Open for Federer ) .

From the 2004 Wimbledon Championships to the 2011 French Open , at least one of them appeared in 25 of 28 Major finals , winning all of them except the 2005 Australian Open , the 2008 Australian Open , the 2011 Australian Open , and the 2009 US Open .

Federer and Nadal have combined to win 8 consecutive Wimbledon ( 2003 ? 10 ) and 10 consecutive French Open ( 2005 ? 14 ) .

Federer and Nadal won the French Open , Wimbledon and US Open trio for 4 consecutive years ( 2005 ? 08 ) .

One of only two pairs to have faced each other in a Major , having both already completed the career Grand Slam . They achieved this in ( the 2011 French Open final and the 2012 Australian Open semifinal ) . The other pair Roy Emerson and Rod Laver also met on two occasions after both completing the career Grand Slam .

= = List of all head @-@ to @-@ head matches = =

ATP , Davis Cup , and Grand Slam main draw results included .

= = = Singles = = =

Federer ? Nadal ( 11 ? 23 )

= = = Doubles = = =

Federer ? Nadal ( 1 ? 2 )

= = = Exhibitions = = =

Federer ? Nadal ( 2 ? 7 )

On 21 November 2006 they played an exhibition match on a hard court in Seoul , South Korea . Federer won 6 ? 3 , 3 ? 6 , 6 ? 3 .

On 2 May 2007 they played in the " Battle of Surfaces " on a hybrid court that was half clay and half grass . This match was held at the Palma Arena in Palma , the capital city of Nadal 's native Mallorca . Nadal won 7 ? 5 , 4 ? 6 , 7 ? 6 ( 12 ? 10 ) .

On 21 December 2010 they played in Zurich , Switzerland on a hard court a charity tennis match for the Roger Federer Foundation . Federer won 4 ? 6 , 6 ? 3 , 6 ? 3 . They played another exhibition match on 22 December 2010 in Madrid , Spain . Nadal won 7 ? 6 ( 7 ? 3 ) , 4 ? 6 , 6 ? 1 . This was a charity tennis match for the Fundación Rafa Nadal ( Rafael Nadal Foundation ) .

On 1 January 2011 they played in the final of the knockout exhibition tournament ; the Mubadala World Tennis Championship on a hard court . Federer had beaten Söderling in the previous round

and Nadal had beaten Berdych in the previous round . Nadal won the encounter by a score of 7 ? 6 ( 7 ? 4 ) , 7 ? 6 ( 7 ? 3 ) .

On 8 March 2011 the two played a set at Matthew Knight Arena in Eugene , Oregon , USA . Nadal won the charity exhibition 7 ? 5 .

On 31 December 2011 they played again at Mubadala 2011 Mubadala World Tennis Championship ( December ) on a hard court , this time for third place . Nadal won again 6 ? 1 , 7 ? 5 .

On 12 December 2015 they played two matches in New Delhi , India at 2015 International Premier Tennis League season on a hard court . Nadal won both a set of singles against Federer 6 ? 5 ( 7 ? 4 ) and , paired with Rohan Bopanna , a doubles set against Roger Federer and Marin Cilic 6 ? 4 to lead the Indian Aces to a 30 ? 19 victory over the UAE Royals .

== Records ==

Only pair in Open Era history to have met 8 times in Grand Slam finals  
Only pair in Open Era history to have met 4 times in finals at one Slam ( at the French Open )  
This rivalry is ranked eighth in terms of matches played in Open Era

== Performance timeline comparison ==

=== Grand Slam tournaments ===

Bold = players met during this tournament

==== By Year ====

===== 1999 ? 2004 =====

===== 2005 ? 2010 =====

===== 2011 ? 2016 =====

==== By Age ( end of season ) ====

===== 18 ? 22 =====

===== 23 ? 27 =====

===== 28 ? 32 =====

===== 33 ? 37 =====

=== ATP Rankings ===

=== Year @-@ end ranking timeline ===

== Career evolution ==

Federer and Nadal were born just under four years and 10 months apart . Federer 's birthday is 8 August 1981 , while Nadal 's is 3 June 1986 . A different viewpoint of their career evolution is offered by taking the season they ended with an age of 18 as starting point , and comparing their accomplishments at the same age . For instance in 2007 , Federer finished the season being 26 years old having accumulated a career record of twelve Major titles , and ranked No.1. By comparison , Nadal finished the 2012 season also aged 26 , having accumulated eleven Major titles in total , and being ranked No.2.

( ) = active record ( updated Monday 25 July 2016 )

=== Titles by tournaments played comparison ===

Another way to view their respective careers and evolution is to look at the progression of titles won by the number of tournaments played to win each of their titles at each level of competition including Grand Slams , ATP World Tour Masters 1000 ( formerly ATP Masters Series ) , ATP World Tour Finals ( formerly Tennis Masters Cup ) , Olympic Games , ATP World Tour 500 Series ( formerly ATP International Series Gold ) , and ATP World Tour 250 Series ( formerly ATP International Series ) . For example , Federer won his 14th Grand Slam title at his 40th Grand Slam Tournament , while Nadal won his 14th at his 38th Grand Slam Tournament .

=== Federer ? Nadal Grand Slam era ( 2003 ? 2014 ) ===

=== Combined singles performance timeline ( best result ) ===

=== Federer ? Nadal ATP world No.1 era ===

= ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful =

" ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " is a song recorded by American singer Britney Spears for her seventh studio album *Femme Fatale* ( 2011 ) . It features guest vocals from American singer Sabi . The song was written by Jeremy Coleman , Joshua Coleman , Esther Dean , Mathieu Jomphe and Benjamin Levin . " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " received mixed reviews from contemporary music critics , who deemed it as one of the best offerings of the album , despite criticizing Sabi 's verses .

After trying to choose between the song , " Criminal " and " Inside Out " to be the fourth single from *Femme Fatale* , " Criminal " was selected , although Sabi revealed she pictured a music video for " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " in a similar style to the performance of 2011 's *Femme Fatale* Tour . The performance consists of Spears singing and dancing to the song while her dancers are carrying picture frames . Sabi performed the song with Spears in selected cities . Despite not being released as a single , " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " managed to peak at number forty @-@ one on South Korea 's Gaon International Chart , due to digital sales separate from *Femme Fatale* , and also appeared on Billboard 's Dance / Electronic Digital Songs chart .

== Background ==

Spears spoke to V about the sessions for *Femme Fatale*, commenting that she had been recording the album for two years. During the recording sessions, the singer contacted songwriter Ester Dean in 2009, after receiving a demo of the song "Drop It Low", which Spears wanted to record. The song, however, was later released as Dean's debut single. Spears then recorded two songs co-written by Dean for *Femme Fatale*. "(Drop Dead) Beautiful" was written by Dean, Jeremy Coleman, Joshua Coleman, Mathieu Jomphe, and Benjamin Levin, while being produced by Blanco, Ammo, JMIKE, and Billboard. It features American recording artist Sabi. Spears first heard about Sabi after listening to songs from The Bangz, an old music group the latter participated in. Sabi explained that, after she was asked to collaborate with Spears, she felt it was so surreal that she refused to believe her luck until the song was recorded.

Although both singers worked with producer Benny Blanco in studio on "(Drop Dead) Beautiful", Spears recorded her vocals for the song before Sabi, who actually raps on the track. The latter also revealed she felt lucky and honored because Spears does not do features often, while commenting that "it's just pretty crazy, I mean, I grew up watching Britney Spears. All my friends watched Britney Spears and we even had a routine to ['... Baby One More Time'] that we were gonna perform, like, for a middle school talent show. So it's a dream come true. Never did I ever think that I'd be in the mix with Britney. I'm just lucky." When asked about how she learned about Sabi in an interview with *Rolling Stone*, Spears revealed, "friends and people around me are always showing me new artists that they love and that's how I learned about Sabi and ended up working with her on '(Drop Dead) Beautiful'. I have always wanted to feature a new artist on one of my albums and she is really cool." A small teaser of the song was unveiled by the singer on March 7, 2011. Four days later, it leaked in full online, along with another *Femme Fatale* track, "Inside Out". On August 5, 2011, Spears posted a poll on her Facebook page asking fans whether her next single should be "Criminal", "Inside Out" or "(Drop Dead) Beautiful". After the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards, she revealed to MTV News that "Criminal" was chosen as the fourth single.

= = Composition = =

In an interview with *Rolling Stone*, Spears revealed that her idea initially was to make an album that was "fresh @-@ sounding [...] for the clubs or something that you play in your car when you're going out at night that gets you excited, but I wanted it to sound different from everything else out right now." "(Drop Dead) Beautiful" is a party song with a heavy club beat. The elements used on the song's background were compared to similar used on songs by The Black Eyed Peas, Usher, Rihanna, and Lady Gaga, while its bass line was said to be "a cousin of the ground" for the Eurythmics' 1983 single "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)".

In the verses, Spears is flirting with a guy, in lyrics such as "Look at you / Look at you / Be my sweetie / Be my honey tonight / Look at you / Look at you / Be my sweetie / Be my honey tonight / 'Cause you're beautiful / Drop dead". Sabi rap's also alludes to the theme of the song, with lines such as "I think I like you / Boy, boy, look at you / I want to get next to you / Got me kind of hot but I ain't sweating you / Steaming like a pot full of vegetables". Spears references The Notorious B.I.G.'s hit "Hypnotize" in "(Drop Dead) Beautiful" in the line "You must be B.I.G. because you got me Hypnotized". Spears' vocals on "(Drop Dead) Beautiful" were deemed as "robotic", but similar to the ones of "Oops! ... I Did It Again" (2000). Jocelyn Vena of MTV noted the singer uses her deep vocals in lines such as "And, yeah, your body looks so sick, I think I caught the flu" and "You must be B.I.G. 'cause you got me hypnotized".

= = Critical response = =

"(Drop Dead) Beautiful" received mixed reviews from contemporary music critics. While reviewing *Femme Fatale*, Alexis Petridis of *The Guardian* noted Spears "does what pop stars invariably do in lieu of having a detectable character of their own: goes on and on about sex", while commenting that "after a while, you get the feeling the lyricists just gave up trying in the face

of her indifference : ' You got me kind of hot ? Steaming like a pot full of vegetables , ' she sings , which somehow makes you think not of thrillingly sweaty congress but the smell of boiled cabbage . " Contemporary critic Robert Christgau noted the songs on the album are " such a convincing illusion that any guy who goes all the way with it has too much libido invested in the bimbo fantasy " , saying that the singer is " just too straight @-@ faced " on " the nauseous ' Your body look so sick I think I got the flu ' " . A reviewer of Samesame.com.au compared the background vocals of the song to Kesha 's " Blow " ( 2010 ) , and noted " guest rapper Sabi wish [ es ] she was Nicki Minaj " . Slant Magazine 's Sal Cinquemani considered " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " one of the album 's " best offerings " , comparing the song to Christina Aguilera 's " Desnude " ( 2010 ) .

Keith Caufield of Billboard noted the song " doesn 't take itself too seriously . Halfway through the number , the luckiest rapper in the world , Sabi , appears , inexplicably rhyming ' sweatin ' you ' with ' vegetables ' , " while Digital Spy 's Robert Copsey considered it " self @-@ assured " . The A.V. Club 's Genevieve Koski commented that " inane lyrical premises like those " on the song " are salvaged by the mightiest of hooks , pummeling the listener into lobotomized musical escapism " . David Buchanan of Consequence of Sound said both " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " and " I Wanna Go " " brings Dirty Vegas memories , plus phoning in that Far East Movement ' Like a G6 ' backing track would have been put to better use with Spears ' producers " . Thomas Conner of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times noted Spears " drags her down low as if she 's Rihanna " in the song . MTV writer Eliot Glazer said that , " even as a mom with two kids , Britney still manages to ooze sex appeal in " Beautiful , " cementing her place as the world 's number one MILF " . Hannah Rishel of The Daily Collegian said " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " was " possibly [ her ] favorite song on the album " , commenting that " it ? s cheesy and ridiculous , but Spears makes it work in the song " . Following the release of *Femme Fatale* , " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " reached number forty @-@ one on South Korea 's Gaon International Chart , after selling 7 @,@ 500 digital units of the song alone . The song also appeared on Billboard 's Dance / Electronic Digital Songs chart on the week of April 23 , 2011 .

= = Promotion = =

" ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " was first performed by Sabi at the Wango Tango of 2011 . On 2011 's *Femme Fatale Tour* , a video interlude in which the stalker talks about femme fatales in history sees the beginning of the third section . Spears returns to the stage wearing a golden outfit and performs an Egyptian @-@ inspired version of " Gimme More " , containing a barge and fireworks . In her next number , " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " , Spears is surrounded by her dancers carrying picture frames , and includes an appearance by Sabi in select cities . Sabi revealed she pictured the music video for the song based on the live performance of the tour , saying , " what we do onstage is very Egyptian , Middle Eastern @-@ like feel and a lot of vanity kind of stuff . So I would just imagine what we kind of did for the green screen , where there 's mirrors and there 's boys that are like oiled up . [ ... ] I would imagine us in goddess @-@ looking outfits and us looking vain " . On August 3 , 2011 , ABC Family announced that " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " would be available for free download on their website , until the premiere of the *Teen Spirit* series on August 5 , 2011 .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for " ( Drop Dead ) Beautiful " adapted from *Femme Fatale* liner notes .