

= Milos Raonic =

Milos Raonic (/ ˈmiːloʊ ˈrɑːnɪk / MEE @-@ lohsh ROW @-@ nich ; Serbian : ?????? ?????? , Milo? Raoni? [mîlo? râonit?] ; born December 27 , 1990) is a Canadian professional tennis player . He reached a career @-@ high world No. 4 singles ranking on May 11 , 2015 , as ranked by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) . His career highlights include a Grand Slam final at the 2016 Wimbledon Championships ; two Grand Slam semifinals at the 2014 Wimbledon Championships and 2016 Australian Open ; and three ATP World Tour Masters 1000 finals at the 2013 Canadian Open , 2014 Paris Masters , and 2016 Indian Wells Masters .

Raonic first gained international acclaim by reaching the fourth round of the 2011 Australian Open as a qualifier , being referred to as " the real deal " , " a new star " , part of " a new generation " , and " a future superstar " . Coupled with his first ATP World Tour title three weeks later , his world ranking rose from No. 152 to No. 37 in one month . He was awarded the 2011 ATP Newcomer of the Year , and has been ranked continuously inside the top 20 since August 2012 . Raonic is the first player born in the 1990s to win an ATP World Tour title , to be ranked in the top 10 , and to qualify for the ATP World Tour Finals . He has eight ATP World Tour titles .

Raonic is the most successful Canadian singles player in history . He became the highest @-@ ranked Canadian male ever on February 21 , 2011 when he reached world No. 37 . His career @-@ high world No. 4 ranking is the highest by a Canadian man or woman . He is the first Canadian male in the Open Era to reach the Australian Open semifinals , the French Open quarterfinals , and the Wimbledon final . He has more ATP World Tour titles and finals appearances in the Open Era than all other Canadian men combined .

Raonic is frequently described as having one of the best serves among his contemporaries . Statistically , Raonic is among the strongest servers in the Open Era , winning 91 % of service games to rank third all @-@ time . Aided by his serve , he plays an all @-@ court style with an emphasis on short points . Every one of his singles titles has been won on hard courts .

= = Early and personal life = =

Raonic was born on December 27 , 1990 , in Titograd , SFR Yugoslavia (now Podgorica , Montenegro) , and is of Serb heritage . Prompted by the political unrest in the Balkans , and seeking more professional opportunities , his family moved to Canada in 1994 when he was three , settling in Brampton , Ontario . His parents are both engineers ; his father , Du?an , holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering , while his mother , Vesna , has degrees in mechanical and computer engineering , including a master 's . He has two siblings , both significantly older : his sister , Jelena , has a master 's degree in international trade and finance and is eleven years older , while his brother , Momir , has a degree in information technology and business and is nine years older . Raonic 's uncle , Branimir Gvozdenovi? , is a politician in the Government of Montenegro , where he has served as Deputy Prime Minister . Raonic is fluent in Serbian and English .

His first , brief introduction to tennis came at age six or seven with a week @-@ long tennis camp at the Bramalea Tennis Club in Brampton , followed by weekly hour @-@ long group sessions led by tennis coach Steve Gibson , who recognized his potential . He moved to nearby Thornhill , Ontario soon after , and one or two years passed before he asked his parents if he could play again . His father sought out coach Casey Curtis at the Blackmore Tennis Club in Richmond Hill , Ontario . Curtis was at first reluctant to take on Raonic , but was convinced after Raonic demonstrated his commitment by working with his father and a ball machine daily for two months . Years later , Raonic said he chose tennis because of its " individuality and [because he] felt [he] could train more alone and on a ball machine with [his] dad " .

Raonic and Curtis worked together " twice a day , almost every day , for the next nine years . " Provided that he complete his courses , Raonic was allowed to reduce his hours of attendance at Thornhill Elementary School so that he could practice more , which he did both before and after school . His parents and siblings supported his tennis , taking turns driving him to practice and tournaments , but did not push him to it or interfere with coaching . Rather , they emphasized school

throughout , insisting that he maintain academic excellence as a prerequisite to playing tennis . He attended Thornhill Secondary School , and accelerated his course load ? achieving an 82 percent average ? so that he could graduate a year early . Late in 2007 , at the age of 16 , Raonic moved to Montreal as one of the first group of players at Tennis Canada 's new National Tennis Centre , thus marking the end of his formal relationship with Curtis .

Raonic 's four favourite sports teams are FC Barcelona , the Toronto Blue Jays , the Toronto Maple Leafs , and the Toronto Raptors . He played in the 2016 NBA All @-@ Star Celebrity Game held in Toronto .

He worked for Rogers Sportsnet as an analyst while recovering from injury for their broadcast of the 2011 Canadian Open . In November 2011 , Raonic won an exhibition match against his childhood idol , Pete Sampras , which was dubbed " The Face Off . " In 2012 , he took up residence in Monte Carlo , Monaco in a 50 metre² (538 sq ft) apartment , located minutes away from the Monte Carlo Country Club ? his " home " tennis club and the site of the Monte @-@ Carlo Masters tournament ? and Stade Louis II , which he uses for off @-@ court training . Raonic has been dating Canadian model Danielle Knudson since 2014 .

= = = Philanthropy = = =

In 2011 , while recovering from a hip injury sustained at Wimbledon , Raonic decided to become involved with philanthropic work , focusing on helping disadvantaged children . The following year , in 2012 , Raonic launched the Milos Raonic Foundation , which aims to " support children from disadvantaged backgrounds in order to remove economic , physical and other barriers that might prevent them from becoming healthy , productive members of society In the initial stages of its work , the foundation will focus , in particular , on children with physical disabilities . " As of 2016 , the foundation had awarded \$ 120 @,@ 000 in grants to the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital , and \$ 30 @,@ 000 to the Canadian Paralympic Committee . Raonic and his parents are the three directors of the foundation , which has partnered with ATP Aces for Charity .

Several celebrity fundraising events have been held in conjunction with the foundation . On November 15 , 2012 , the inaugural " Raonic Race for Kids " was held , with multiple teams competing in quick physical and intellectual challenges . Teams were led by celebrities , including Canadian Football Hall of Fame quarterback Damon Allen and tennis players Eugenie Bouchard and Daniel Nestor . The next night , a second " Face Off " event featured exhibition matches between Raonic and Andy Roddick , and between Serena Williams and Agnieszka Radwańska . In November 2013 , the second " Raonic Race for Kids " featured Davis Cup captain Martin Laurendeau , musician Jim Cuddy , and broadcaster George Stroumboulopoulos . The third " Raonic Race for Kids " in November 2014 featured Tennis Canada CEO Kelly Murumets , soccer player Dwayne De Rosario , and figure @-@ skating champions Patrick Chan , Tessa Virtue , and Scott Moir .

= = Tennis career = =

= = = Amateur career = = =

Raonic first competed at a junior event sanctioned by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in October 2003 at the age of 12 . Two years later , in October 2005 , he picked up his first singles match victory at age 14 . His first juniors titles in both singles and doubles came at the same Grade 4 tournament in October 2006 . Later that year , he won the Prince Cup doubles title , partnering fellow Canadian Vasek Pospisil for the first time at an ITF event . Pospisil and Raonic partnered at four more junior tournaments , including the 2008 Wimbledon Championships and the 2008 French Open , reaching the semifinals in the latter . His most notable titles as a junior were in doubles , winning two Grade 1 events in 2008 partnered with Bradley Klahn .

Over five years , Raonic compiled a 53 ? 30 win ? loss record in singles , and a 56 ? 24 record in

doubles on the ITF Junior Circuit . Except for reaching the semifinals at the 2008 French Open in doubles , Raonic did not advance past the second round of junior Grand Slam events . His career @-@ high combined junior ranking , which considers both singles and doubles results , was No. 35 .

While an amateur , Raonic played in fourteen professional tournaments against adults in North America : ten ITF Futures events at the introductory (bottom) tier of professional tennis ; three ATP Challenger Tour events at the middle tier ; and one ATP World Tour event at the top tier . He played his first professional circuit match in the qualifying draw of an ITF Futures tournament in Toronto in October 2005 at the age of 14 ; he won his first professional circuit main draw match at an ITF Futures tournament in Gatineau , Quebec , in March 2007 against Fabrice Martin . With the win , Raonic earned his first world ranking of No. 1518 . He played his first professional circuit doubles match at the same tournament , partnered with Pospisil again . Raonic lost his first ATP Challenger Tour match in Granby , Quebec , in July 2007 against Gary Lugassy . Raonic won his first ITF Futures doubles title in Gatineau , Quebec in March 2008 , and reached his first ITF Futures singles final two weeks later in Sherbrooke , Quebec . He received a wildcard to the qualifying tournament of the 2008 Canadian Open , but lost in the first round to Alexander Kudryavtsev . The match was his first in the ATP World Tour .

By the summer of 2008 , Raonic had received scholarship offers from several colleges , including the University of Michigan , Princeton , and Northwestern University , and committed to play for the University of Virginia that fall while studying finance . Just two weeks before school started , he consulted his parents about his plan to turn professional instead . Raonic and his parents agreed that he would take correspondence courses in finance from Athabasca University while starting a professional tennis career , setting a deadline of two years for reaching the top 100 . During that summer , his world ranking ranged between No. 915 and No. 937 . Raonic reached the top 100 in January 2011 , around five months later than the target deadline . He thus turned down the scholarships and turned professional , agreeing to be represented by the sports agency SFX . University of Virginia men 's tennis coach Brian Boland later commented that " I have only seen two guys turn down scholarships and then succeed quickly on the Tour : Sam Querrey and Milos Raonic . "

= = = 2008 ? 2010 : Early professional years = = =

After turning professional in September 2008 until the end of 2010 , Raonic played both singles and doubles , primarily at ITF Futures and ATP Challenger tournaments . He won his first ITF Futures singles title in March 2009 in Montreal . He added three more singles titles and five doubles titles at the ITF Futures level in 2009 and 2010 . He was less successful at the ATP Challenger level , tallying only one title . In his fourth tournament after turning professional , Raonic won the doubles title at the Men 's Rimouski Challenger in November 2008 , partnered with Pospisil .

At the ATP World Tour level , Raonic gained entry into few tournaments , compiling a main draw record of three wins and five losses over nearly two and half years . In 2009 , Raonic again received a wildcard for the qualifying tournament of the Canadian Open . This time , he beat world No. 77 Teymuraz Gabashvili and No. 113 Michaël Llodra to qualify for the main draw of an ATP World Tour tournament for the first time . In the first round , he held a match point , but lost to world No. 10 Fernando Gonzalez in three sets . The matches against Gabashvili and Gonzalez were the first singles matches for Raonic against a top 100 player and top 10 player , respectively .

A year later , at the 2010 Canadian Open , Raonic and Pospisil were given a doubles wildcard to the main draw , marking Raonic 's first ever ATP World Tour doubles match . They won their first round match against Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic . It was first time that the world Nos. 1 and 2 had played together in a tour doubles match since Jimmy Connors and Arthur Ashe did so in 1976 . In the second round , Raonic and Pospisil lost to reigning Wimbledon doubles champions Jürgen Melzer and Philipp Petzschner . After the match , Raonic said : " Our goal here is pretty much as ambassadors to Canada . The more players that we can get to come , the more people we can get going to take tennis lessons . "

Less than a month later , Raonic gained entry into a Grand Slam tournament for the first time at the 2010 US Open . He qualified for the main draw , but lost in the first round to Carsten Ball . Raonic 's first ATP main draw singles victory came in September 2010 at the Malaysian Open against world No. 105 Igor Kunitsyn . He followed this with a second round victory over world No. 31 Sergiy Stakhovsky . The following week , Raonic lost in the second round of the 2010 Japan Open to world No. 1 Nadal . This marked his first singles match against a player ranked No. 1 , and his first singles match against a member of the Big Four ? a quartet of dominant tennis players including Nadal , Djokovic , Roger Federer , and Andy Murray .

Raonic 's coaching relationship evolved during his early professional years . Since late 2007 , Raonic had been working with Tennis Canada coaches ? including Guillaume Marx , Head Boys National Coach ? based out of the National Training Centre at Jarry Park in Montreal . In November 2009 , with Raonic 's world ranking at No. 377 , Tennis Canada hired recently retired former player Frédéric Niemeyer to coach Raonic and travel with him for 18 weeks during the 2010 season . Toward the end of 2010 , however , Niemeyer decided to travel less owing to " family considerations . " As a result , Tennis Canada arranged for a two @-@ week trial period with former world No. 40 Galo Blanco in co @-@ operation with Niemeyer , including tournaments in Malaysia and Japan in late September and early October . Over this period , Raonic climbed from No. 237 to No. 155 . Tennis Canada hired Blanco , and Raonic moved to Barcelona to train with Blanco and trainer Tony Estalella . Commenting on the training regiment , Blanco said " the off @-@ season Milos had this winter in Barcelona was amazing . We never saw anything like that before , working the way he worked for six weeks . "

= = = 2011 : Top 25 and first ATP title = = =

The first two months of 2011 represented a significant breakthrough for Raonic , as he rose from No. 156 at the beginning of January to No. 37 by the end of February . In doing so , he became the highest @-@ ranked Canadian male ever . He began this climb by qualifying for the Australian Open main draw . His first round victory over Björn Phau marked his first victory in a main draw Grand Slam match . In the second round , he defeated No. 22 seed Llodra , becoming the first Canadian man in 10 years to reach the third round of a Grand Slam singles tournament . With his career @-@ first victory over a top 10 player (Mikhail Youzhny) in the third round , he became the first qualifier to make the fourth round of a major since Marcelo Filippini at the 1999 French Open .

Despite losing in the fourth round to world No. 7 David Ferrer , Raonic received rave reviews for his Australian Open performance . Patrick McEnroe said " Raonic [is] the real deal " . BBC Sport referred to Raonic as part of " a new generation " . Martina Navratilova referred to Raonic as " a new star " saying that " the sky is the limit " . The Sydney Morning Herald referred to Raonic as a " future superstar " .

Two weeks later , Raonic won his first ATP title at the Pacific Coast Championships , with victories over No. 45 Xavier Malisse , No. 170 James Blake , No. 74 Ri?ardas Berankis , and No. 9 Fernando Verdasco . With the victory , he became the first player born in the 1990s to win an ATP title , and the youngest winner since Marin ?ili? won the 2008 Connecticut Open at age 19 . Raonic 's victory was the first ATP title by a Canadian since Greg Rusedski in 1995 .

The following week , Raonic reached the final of an ATP 500 tournament for the first time at the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships . He defeated Verdasco for the second time in three days in the first round , and world No. 17 Mardy Fish in the semifinal . In the final , he lost in three sets to world No. 8 Roddick , with Roddick making a diving forehand to break serve for the match on his fifth championship point . Roddick stated : " That 's the best shot I 've ever hit in my life , considering the circumstance . "

With his improved ranking (No. 37) , Raonic earned direct entry to Grand Slam tournaments and other ATP World Tour events for the first time . He reached the third round at both the Indian Wells Masters and the Monte @-@ Carlo Masters . In May , Raonic rose to a new career @-@ high ranking of No. 25 . He was seeded for the first time at a Grand Slam event at the French Open , but lost in the first round to Michael Berrer . At the Halle Open , Raonic reached his first ATP World Tour

doubles final , partnered with Robin Haase . The pair lost to Rohan Bopanna and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi in the deciding super tiebreak . During his second round singles match at Wimbledon against Gilles Müller , Raonic retired with an early lead after injuring his right hip when he slipped and fell on the grass . He underwent hip surgery which prevented him from competing until September . His only significant result in the latter half of 2011 after returning from injury was a semifinal appearance at the Stockholm Open , where he lost to Gaël Monfils .

== 2012 : Second and third ATP titles ==

Raonic began 2012 with titles in two of his first three tournaments , starting with his second ATP title at the Chennai Open in India . He had back-to-back wins over top 10 players at a tournament for the first time , beating Nicolás Almagro in the semifinals and Janko Tipsarević in the final . Raonic held serve during the entire tournament , becoming the first player to do so since Federer at the 2008 Halle Open . He lost in the third round of the Australian Open to Lleyton Hewitt . In February , Raonic defended his title at the Pacific Coast Championships , defeating Denis Istomin in the final for his third ATP title . The following week in Memphis , Raonic reached the final of the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships for the second straight year , but lost to Melzer .

In the spring , Raonic played his first three matches against world No. 3 Federer on three different surfaces : hard court in the third round of the Indian Wells Masters ; clay in the second round at the Madrid Open ; and grass in the quarterfinals at the Halle Open . On each occasion , Raonic won the first set before losing the next two . After the Halle Open match , Federer remarked : " I am happy to have beaten him now because by the end of my career , he will be serving at 300 km / h . " He defeated world No. 4 Murray in straight sets in the quarterfinals at the Barcelona Open . This marked his first victory over a member of the Big Four . In the semifinal , he lost to world No. 6 Ferrer . Raonic lost to Juan Mónaco in the third round of the French Open , and followed this with a second round loss to Querrey at Wimbledon .

Raonic reached his first ATP 1000 quarterfinals at back-to-back events in August , losing to John Isner at the Canadian Open and Stan Wawrinka at the Cincinnati Masters . His loss to Wawrinka followed his victory over world No. 7 Tomáš Berdych , his fourth top 10 victory of the year . On August 13 , his world ranking was No. 19 , marking his first time in the top 20 . At the US Open , Raonic lost in the fourth round to eventual champion Murray . Raonic was the first Canadian male to reach the fourth round of the US Open since Laurendeau in 1988 . In October at the Japan Open , Raonic reached his third ATP 500 final , defeating Radek Štěpánek , Viktor Troicki , Tipsarević , and Murray , before dropping the final to Japan 's Kei Nishikori in three sets . His victories over Tipsarević and Murray marked the third time he won back-to-back matches against top 10 players .

In 2012 , Raonic led the ATP in points won on 1st serve (82 %) and in service games won (93 %) . He finished the year at a career high singles ranking of No. 13 . His six victories over top 10 players in 2012 , including two over Murray , marks a career @-@ high .

== 2013 : Top 10 and fourth and fifth ATP titles ==

In all four 2013 Grand Slam tournaments , Raonic matched his previous best result . He reached the fourth round of the Australian Open , falling to world No. 2 Federer . At the French Open , he lost in the third round to Kevin Anderson . At Wimbledon , he lost in the second round to Igor Sijsling . At the US Open , he fell to world No. 9 Richard Gasquet in the fourth round , despite a career @-@ high 39 aces .

Raonic again achieved success at ATP 250 and ATP 500 events . In February , Raonic earned his third consecutive title at the Pacific Coast Championships , defeating Tommy Haas in the final . Over three years , he achieved a perfect 12-0 match record , and he did not drop a single set . He is the only man in the Open Era to win three consecutive titles at this event . In September , he won the Thailand Open tournament , defeating No. 9 Gasquet in the semifinals and No. 6 Berdych in the final . The titles were Raonic 's fourth and fifth , both coming in ATP 250 events like previous titles .

In October , Raonic reached the Japan Open final for the second consecutive year , but lost a close match to No. 7 Juan Martin del Potro . It marked his fourth consecutive loss in the final of an ATP 500 event .

In eight of the nine ATP 1000 events , Raonic matched or improved on his career @-@ best performance . This included his first ATP 1000 series final at the Canadian Open in August . During his third round victory over del Potro , Raonic was awarded a point even though his foot touched the net . He did not report his error to the umpire , and won the last nine points to close out the match . Raonic later admitted that he was wrong not to admit his error at the time : " I made a mistake in the spur of the moment ... I 'm disappointed with myself , how I dealt with it . " After beating Ernests Gulbis in the quarterfinals , Raonic defeated compatriot Pospisil in the semifinals . The match against Pospisil was the first all @-@ Canadian semifinal in an ATP 1000 tournament . In the final , he lost to Nadal in just 68 minutes . Following the tournament , Raonic was ranked No. 10 , becoming the first Canadian player and the first player born in the 1990s to break into the top 10 .

In 2013 , Raonic again led the ATP in points won on first serve (82 %) and in service games won (91 %) . He had 45 match victories for the second consecutive year . His coaching team underwent significant changes in 2013 . In May , Raonic split with his coach of two and half years , Blanco . Less than a month later , Raonic hired former world No. 3 tennis player Ivan Ljubi?i? as his coach . In December , he hired Riccardo Piatti as a co @-@ coach with Ljubi?i? .

= = = 2014 : First Grand Slam semifinal = = =

Raonic opened 2014 by reaching the third round of the Australian Open , losing to Grigor Dimitrov . He sustained an ankle injury that kept him out of action for six weeks .

From March through May , Raonic improved on his career @-@ best performance at five consecutive ATP 1000 events . At the Indian Wells Masters , he beat No. 6 Murray to reach the quarterfinals , losing to Alexandr Dolgoplov . He lost in the quarterfinals of the Miami Masters to Nadal . He reached the quarterfinals for the third ATP 1000 tournament in a row at the Monte @-@ Carlo Masters , before falling to Wawrinka . The result garnered Raonic a career @-@ high ranking as world No. 9 . Raonic lost in the third round of the Madrid Open to Nishikori . At the Italian Open , Raonic defeated J  r  my Chardy in the quarterfinals to reach his first Masters 1000 semifinal on clay . After winning the first set , he lost his semifinal match to eventual champion Djokovic . Although he had played Djokovic in the 2013 Davis Cup , this was their first ATP match against one another .

At the French Open , Raonic was seeded in the top eight for the first time at a Grand Slam tournament . He notched victories against Nick Kyrgios , Ji  i Vesel  y , Gilles Simon , and Marcel Granollers to reach the quarterfinals of a major for the first time in his career , becoming the first Canadian man to do so in the Open Era . He lost in the quarterfinals to Djokovic in straight sets . After the match , Raonic commented : " I 've gone farther in a Slam than I have before and I 've learned things even from this loss . "

At Wimbledon , Raonic was again seeded eighth . He defeated Matthew Ebden , Jack Sock , ?ukasz Kubot , Nishikori , and Kyrgios to reach his first major semifinal . He became the first Canadian men 's singles player to reach the semifinals at a major since Robert Powell in 1908 . In the quarterfinal victory against Kyrgios , Raonic tied a career @-@ high with 39 aces . In the semifinals , Raonic lost to Federer in straight sets . After the match , Raonic reflected : " There 's a lot of good things to take from it But when you get here to this point , I think it 's just human nature , the greed of human nature , that you want so much more . You feel it in front of you and you want to grab it . " Despite the loss , Raonic saw his world ranking improve to a career @-@ high No. 6 .

In his next tournament , Raonic reached his first final of the year at the Washington Open , facing Pospisil in the first all @-@ Canadian final in ATP history . Raonic won the title in straight sets . It was his first ATP 500 title , after finishing as runner @-@ up in four previous ATP 500 tournaments . After reaching the quarterfinals at the Canadian Open and the semifinals at the Cincinnati Masters , he claimed the men 's 2014 US Open Series .

At the US Open , Raonic was seeded fifth . He won his first three matches to face rival Nishikori in

the fourth round . On the morning of September 2 , Raonic and Nishikori tied the all @-@ time latest finish for a match at the US Open , ending at 2 : 26 a.m. This tied previous matches between Mats Wilander and Mikael Pernfors in 1993 , and between Isner and Philipp Kohlschreiber in 2012 . The five set match lasted 4 hours and 19 minutes , with Raonic losing and Nishikori advancing to the quarterfinals . In October , Raonic reached the final of the Japan Open for the third consecutive year , but lost to Nishikori again .

Three years prior , in 2011 , Raonic had set a personal goal of reaching the year @-@ end ATP Finals , where only the top eight players earned a spot . Heading into the last ATP 1000 event of 2014 , the Paris Masters , Raonic trailed Ferrer for the eighth spot , and needed a deep run to surpass him . He beat Sock and Roberto Bautista Agut to set up a quarterfinals match against world No. 2 Federer , who had beaten him in all six previous meetings . Needing a win to avoid being eliminated from contention for the ATP Finals , Raonic won in straight sets . His victory was hailed as " a career @-@ defining win . " In the post @-@ match interview , Raonic was asked to rank this victory in his career . He replied : " Considering all the circumstances around it , I think this was the biggest win for me . " He went on to beat world No. 5 Berdych in the semifinals to earn a spot in the second ATP 1000 final of his career . He lost to Djokovic in the final , but secured his place in the 2014 ATP Finals . He is the first Canadian to reach the ATP Finals , and the first player born in the 1990s to do so . Anticlimactically , Raonic withdrew from the tournament due to a leg @-@ muscle tear prior to his match against Nishikori , after losses to Federer and Murray .

Raonic ended the year at a career @-@ high season @-@ ending ranking of No. 8 . He was one of just three players to reach the quarterfinals or better at seven of the nine ATP 1000 tournaments . Raonic finished with a career @-@ high total of 1107 aces in 2014 . At the time , this was the fifth highest single @-@ year ace total in history . (It was surpassed by both Ivo Karlović and Isner in 2015 .)

= = = 2015 : Top 4 and injury woes = = =

Raonic began 2015 by reaching the final at the Brisbane International after defeating world No. 5 Nishikori in three sets , all decided in tiebreaks . He lost to world No. 2 Federer in three sets , with Federer recording his 1,000th match win on the professional tour . Later in the month , he reached the quarterfinals of the Australian Open after beating world No. 12 Feliciano López . He lost to Djokovic in straight sets .

At the Indian Wells Masters , Raonic won his quarterfinal match against No. 3 Nadal , after saving three match points from Nadal in the second set tiebreak . It was Raonic 's first career victory over Nadal after five defeats . He lost to Federer in the semifinals .

In April , Raonic opened the Monte @-@ Carlo Masters with a victory over João Sousa . Just one game into his second @-@ round match against Tommy Robredo , Raonic called for a medical timeout due to a right foot injury . Although he went on to win the match , Raonic 's manager indicated that Raonic had made a pre @-@ existing injury worse by playing . In his quarterfinal match against Berdych , he complained of numbness in his right foot during a medical timeout , and retired while trailing 2 ? 5 in the opening set . It was diagnosed as a pinched nerve , and Raonic was expected to be healthy for the Madrid Open .

In Madrid , Raonic advanced to the quarterfinals with straight sets victories over Mónaco and Leonardo Mayer . After Raonic lost in the quarterfinals against Murray , Murray observed that Raonic was " struggling [with injury] . " Following the match , Raonic announced that he would undergo surgery to repair a nerve in his foot , targeting a return in time for the French Open . Ironically , Raonic 's world ranking reached a new career @-@ high of No. 4 the following week , the highest by a Canadian man or woman .

Following surgery , Raonic withdrew from the Italian Open and the French Open . He returned to play the Queen 's Club Championships and Wimbledon , losing in both tournaments in the third round . After his Wimbledon loss to Kyrgios , Raonic commented that his foot injury had led to problems throughout his body : " There wasn 't a place it wasn 't [bothering me] ... First ankle , then the hip , and then the back . Then when those things aren 't working , you just put too much

pressure on your shoulder , and then your shoulder hurts . " The cascading injuries led to a withdrawal from Canada 's Davis Cup tie against Belgium ; a withdrawal from the Washington Open , where Raonic was the defending champion ; first round losses at the Canadian Open and Cincinnati Masters ; and a third round loss at the US Open to López .

In September , at the St. Petersburg Open , Raonic won his seventh singles title ? and first in Europe ? with a three @-@ set victory over Sousa . His serve was broken just once in the entire tournament . After early losses at the China Open and Shanghai Masters , Raonic ended his ATP season by withdrawing from three consecutive tournaments , citing injury . On November 2 , he fell outside the top 10 , dropping to world No. 14 . After six weeks off , Raonic joined the Philippine Mavericks of the exhibition International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) in December . After four matches , he withdrew due to back spasms .

In late November , Raonic parted ways with both Ljubi?i? , who had been his coach since June 2013 , and Austin Nunn , who had been his media manager for nearly four years . Ljubi?i? was added to Federer 's coaching team two weeks later . Raonic contacted former world No. 1 tennis player Carlos Moya about a coaching relationship , and they trained together and had discussions during the IPTL events . The relationship was subsequently formalized and on January 1 , 2016 , Raonic announced that Moya would join his coaching team alongside Piatti . Raonic said that he chose Moya for three reasons : " Carlos is very laid back and positive [... and] he communicates well . "

= = = 2016 : First Grand Slam final = = =

Raonic reached the final of the Brisbane International against world No. 3 Federer in a rematch of their 2015 final . This time , Raonic upset Federer in straight sets , winning his eighth career title . Asked to talk about Raonic after the match , Federer observed : " [F] or a big guy he moves well ... He 's improved his fitness the last few years . Also , tactically , I think he 's better now than he 's ever been . He 's made a conscious effort of playing close to the baseline , which before when he was working with the Spanish coaches he was way back . "

In the fourth round of the Australian Open , he upset world No. 4 Wawrinka in five sets , beating the 2014 champion for the first time in five meetings . He then beat Monfils in the quarterfinals to advance to the semifinals of the Australian Open for the first time in his career . He became the first Canadian man to reach the Australian Open semifinals . In the semifinals , he lost to world No. 2 Murray in five sets , sustaining an adductor injury while leading two sets to one . After the match , he reflected that the loss was " probably the most heartbroken [he has] felt on court . "

The adductor injury kept Raonic out of competition for six weeks , during which he withdrew from the Delray Beach Open and the Mexican Open , and Canada 's Davis Cup clash with France . He returned to action at the Indian Wells Masters , reaching the final against world No. 1 Djokovic with a string of four victories over top 20 opponents : Bernard Tomic , Berdych , Monfils , and David Goffin . In the semifinal victory over Goffin , Raonic 's average second serve (112 mph) was faster than Goffin 's average first serve (110 mph) . Before the final , Djokovic said : " Milos is probably playing the best tennis that he has ever played . His serve was phenomenal before the start of this season , but it seems like he has improved even more , especially the second serve . He 's going for it more . He 's not giving you the same look . " Raonic lost a lopsided straight sets match to Djokovic in the final , his third consecutive loss in an ATP 1000 final .

Raonic followed Indian Wells by reaching the quarterfinals at the next three ATP 1000 events in Miami , Monte Carlo , and Madrid , eventually losing to Kyrgios , Murray , and Djokovic , respectively . On May 2 , he re @-@ entered the top 10 at No. 10 . Raonic continued the clay court season with a second @-@ round loss at the Italian Open to Kyrgios . At the French Open , he was the eighth seed , but fell in the fourth round in straight sets to world No. 55 Albert Ramos @-@ Vinolas . During the French Open , former world No. 1 and 3 @-@ time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe announced that he would join Raonic 's team as a consultant for the grass court season . Commenting on McEnroe joining Moya and Piatti on his coaching team , Raonic said : " I was sort of just looking for another set of eyes to be a bit more efficient on grass " and he said it was about "

generally improving . "

Raonic began the grass court season by advancing to his first grass court final at the Queen 's Club Championships without dropping serve in victories over Kyrgios , Veselý , Bautista Agut , and Tomic , but lost the final in three sets to Murray . At Wimbledon , Raonic won his first three matches in straight sets against Pablo Carreño Busta , Andreas Seppi , and Sock . In the fourth round against Goffin , Raonic came back from from a two set deficit to win in five sets for the first time in his career . In ten previous best @-@ of @-@ five matches where he lost the first two sets , he also lost the third set . Raonic then beat Querrey in the quarterfinals and Federer in the semifinals , marking Federer 's first defeat in 11 Wimbledon semifinals . With the victory , Raonic reached his first Grand Slam final , becoming the first Canadian man to do so . In the final , he lost to Murray in straight sets , though he made the fastest serve of the tournament at 147 miles per hour (237 km / h) .

= = National representation = =

Early in his career , Raonic was questioned about whether he would follow the example of Rusedski , the last prominent Canadian tennis player , who decided to represent Great Britain instead . Raonic declared that he would play for Canada .

Raonic embraced his role as Canada 's top singles player , intent on growing the game in Canada . He stated in 2010 : " I want to make a difference in Canada with [my career] . I feel if I were to achieve my goals it could make a great difference to the growth of tennis in Canada and help to produce more top players in the future . " Before a Davis Cup tie with Japan in 2015 , he said : " I 'm here because I want to be here . I don 't have anybody telling me I need to be here . I want to succeed at this event , and I want to succeed representing Canada . "

= = = Davis Cup = = =

From 2010 to 2016 , Canada competed in 15 Davis Cup ties . Raonic represented Canada in 11 of those ties , missing four due to injury : Ecuador in 2011 , Japan in 2014 , Belgium in 2015 , and France in 2016 . Overall , Raonic has 16 match wins in 22 Davis Cup matches (14 ? 5 in singles ; 2 ? 1 in doubles) . He is one of the most successful players in Canadian Davis Cup history , tied for the six most match wins overall and tied for third in singles match wins .

Raonic made his Davis Cup debut in Bogota against Colombia in 2010 at the age of 19 . Raonic lost both of his singles matches (against Santiago Giraldo and Juan Sebastián Cabal) , but won his doubles match partnered with Nestor , who was then the top ranked doubles player in the world . His first singles match victory came in Canada 's next tie against the Dominican Republic , when he beat Víctor Estrella Burgos in five sets . This marked the first five set match of Raonic 's career . Competing against Mexico in 2011 , Raonic won three rubbers in a tie for the first time , beating both Manuel Sánchez and Daniel Garza in singles and partnering with Pospisil to win in doubles as well .

In the 2013 Davis Cup World Group first round , Raonic won singles rubbers over Ramos @-@ Viñolas and Guillermo García @-@ López to lead Canada over top @-@ seeded Spain . He repeated this feat with victories over Fabio Fognini and Seppi to help Canada defeat Italy in the quarterfinals , sending Canada into the Davis Cup semifinals for the first time since 1913 . In the semifinal against Serbia , Raonic won his singles match over Tipsarević , but lost to world No. 1 Djokovic as Canada was eliminated . The defeat marked Raonic 's first singles match against Djokovic .

= = = Olympics = = =

Raonic represented Canada at the London 2012 Olympics and competed in the singles competition as an unseeded player . He won his first round match over Japan 's Tatsuma Ito in straight sets . In the second round , Raonic lost to French player Jo @-@ Wilfried Tsonga 3 ? 6 , 6 ? 3 , 23 ? 25 , breaking three Olympic tennis records . The match holds the records for the most games played in a best @-@ of @-@ three sets match (66 games) and the most games played in a single set (48

games) in Olympic history . At the time , it was the longest Olympic match by time played (3 hours 57 minutes) , but this record was broken three days later in the semifinal match between Federer and del Potro (4 hours 26 minutes) .

Raonic decided not to play in the 2016 Summer Olympics citing health concerns and the Zika virus .

= = Hopman Cup = =

In 2014 , Raonic partnered with Bouchard to represent Canada in the Hopman Cup . Raonic won two of three singles matches , and paired with Bouchard to win two of three doubles matches . Canada finished in second place in their pool ? behind top @-@ seeded Poland ? and were eliminated .

= = Playing style = =

The most distinctive part of Raonic 's game is his powerful and accurate serve , from which his " Missile " nickname is derived . He is frequently cited as having one of the best serves among his contemporaries , along with Karlovi? and Isner . Some consider Raonic 's serve to be among the best of all time . Sampras , Raonic 's childhood idol , describes the Canadian 's serve as " bigger than big . " After a match against Raonic , Djokovic commented " I can 't recall the last time I was feeling so helpless returning . Even his second serve . " Statistically , Raonic is among the strongest servers in the Open Era , winning 91 % of service games to rank third all @-@ time . Raonic has one of the fastest recorded serves of all time .

Aided by his serve , Raonic employs an all @-@ court style with an emphasis on short points . His groundstrokes are both good , but his forehand is stronger than his backhand . Because of this , he has been known to run around his backhand and hit inside @-@ out forehands instead . He attempts to dictate play and is generally more aggressive than his opponent , as evidenced by usually having more winners and more unforced errors . To finish points quickly , Raonic occasionally approaches the net , with either a serve and volley or chip and charge strategy .

Raonic prefers playing on hard courts , where he has been more successful than on clay or grass courts . All but two of the tournaments where Raonic has reached the final have been played on hard courts , and all but three of his victories over top 10 players have been on hard courts as well .

When he was twenty , the National Post described Raonic as a " hothead whose on @-@ court demeanour was holding him back . " As he grew older , commentators came to see him as " stoic " , " robotic " , and " emotionless " , with The Daily Telegraph referring to him as " an analytical character who questions everything he does in practice " . In 2014 , Raonic explained : " I 'm the son of two engineers , so everything is a numbers and calculation game . " In 2016 , he added : " I am very systematic in how [I] need to go about things to bring out the best tennis for myself , and maybe that comes off as mechanical and robotic and those kind of things , but I don 't know if I 'd ever change that because I feel that 's the way I get the best out of myself when it comes to my tennis . "

Aspects of Raonic 's game which have been criticized include his return of serve , quickness and mobility , backhand , short game , and the use of backspin or sidespin . His above @-@ average height ? 196 cm (6 ft 5 in) ? is linked to his strong serve , but is said to limit his movement around the court .

= = Equipment and apparel = =

Raonic endorses the Wilson BLX Blade 98 18x20 tennis racket , and uses LUXILON M2 Pro 1 @. @ 25 16L strings . In January 2013 , Raonic became the first tennis player to endorse New Balance clothing and shoes , in a deal reported to be worth " US \$ 1 million annually over a five @-@ year term . " Roughly two and a half years later , this deal was extended " for the length of [Raonic 's] career and beyond , " and stipulates that New Balance will increase its support of the

Milos Raonic Foundation . The lifelong nature of this contract was described by Tennis Canada as " unique . "

Since March 2014 , Raonic has donned a sleeve on his right arm while playing . At first , he wore a fisherman 's sleeve to cover a rash he had due to an allergic reaction to massage cream . This was replaced with an athletic compression sleeve , often colour @-@ coordinated with his on @-@ court apparel . The sleeve is worn for comfort , and wearing it became a habit for Raonic . The sleeve has become a distinctive part of Raonic 's image , and has spawned a Twitter account . The motto " Believe in the Sleeve " has become synonymous with Raonic in the media and among Raonic 's fans . Serena Williams described the sleeve as " super cool and different . "

Raonic is represented by CAA Sports , a division of Creative Artists Agency . His other sponsorship deals include AVIVA (insurance) , Canada Goose (apparel) , Commerce Court (real estate) , Lacoste (apparel) , Rolex (watches) , SAP (software) , and Zepp (sports metrics) .

= = Rivals and contemporaries = =

= = = Raonic and the Big Four = = =

Raonic holds a combined 7 ? 29 record (19 %) against the Big Four , including 0 ? 7 against Djokovic , 1 ? 6 against Nadal , 3 ? 9 against Federer , and 3 ? 7 against Murray .

Each of Raonic 's deepest runs in significant tournaments (i.e. majors and ATP 1000 tournaments) have ended with a loss to a member of the Big Four : Nadal in the 2013 Canadian Open final , Federer in the 2014 Wimbledon semifinal , Djokovic in the 2014 Paris Masters final , Murray in the 2016 Australian Open semifinal , Djokovic in the 2016 Indian Wells Masters final , and Murray in the 2016 Wimbledon final . At majors , Raonic has a 1 ? 7 record against the Big Four , losing the first five matches in straight sets . He has met only one of the four in Davis Cup play : he lost to Djokovic in the 2013 semifinals .

Raonic 's most frequent opponent , either inside or outside the Big Four , is Federer (12 matches) . His first victory over Federer in the 2014 Paris Masters quarterfinal was hailed as " a career @-@ defining win . " His second victory over Federer ? at the 2016 Brisbane International ? was his first in a final against the Big Four . A third victory over Federer ? in the 2016 Wimbledon semifinal ? marked Raonic 's first victory at a Grand Slam tournament against the Big Four .

= = = Raonic and Nishikori = = =

Nishikori is often cited as Raonic 's primary rival . The two have very different strengths ; according to The Globe and Mail , Raonic uses his " size and his serve " , while Nishikori uses his " savvy and speed . " Both are the first from their respective countries to achieve a top 10 ranking , and both have a career @-@ high ranking of world No. 4 . In May 2015 , they were the two youngest players in the top 10 . Nishikori holds a 5 ? 2 advantage in seven close matches , including two wins in the Japan Open final (2012 , 2014) . Of the twenty @-@ five sets they have played , ten have required a tiebreak . Only one of their matches has been a straight sets victory . Five matches have required the maximum number of sets . One of these was a marathon US Open five @-@ set match that equalled the record for latest finish ever at 2 : 26 a.m.

Nishikori and Raonic are among a group of players whom tennis pundits suggest could be the successors of the Big Four . The members of this group vary , but have included Dimitrov , Gulbis , ?ili? , and Dominic Thiem .

= = = Raonic and Pospisil = = =

Pospisil is more of a contemporary rather than a rival of Raonic . Owing to their similarity in age ? Pospisil is six months older ? and the fact that both are successful products of Tennis Canada 's development programs , they have been linked as the leaders of a new generation of Canadian

tennis players . They partnered in doubles frequently early in their careers , winning doubles titles together in junior and ATP Challenger events . Between 2011 and 2015 , Raonic and Pospisil have been the two top @-@ ranked Canadian men in year @-@ end rankings . As well as four ATP Challenger and Futures matches , they have played each other in two ATP World Tour matches : Raonic beat Pospisil in the first all @-@ Canadian semifinal at an ATP 1000 tournament , and in the first all @-@ Canadian final in ATP history . They are frequent Davis Cup teammates , and they planned to play doubles together at the 2016 Rio Olympics until Raonic withdrew .

= = = Raonic , Isner , and Karlovi? = = =

Raonic is often compared to Isner and Karlovi? . The trio possess statistically dominant serves , leading the ATP in service games won and in aces per match in the period between 2012 and 2015 . They have played each other infrequently , however . Raonic is 1 ? 1 against Karlovi? and 0 ? 3 against Isner . Karlovi? holds a 3 ? 2 head @-@ to @-@ head advantage over Isner .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Grand Slam performance timeline = = =

This table is current through the 2016 Wimbledon Championships .

= = = Grand Slam finals : 1 (1 runner @-@ up) = = =

= = = Records = = =

These records were attained in the Open Era of tennis (post @-@ 1968) .

= = Awards = =

2011 ? ATP Newcomer of the Year

2011 ? Tennis Canada male player of the year

2012 ? QMI Agency Canadian Male Athlete of the Year

2012 ? Tennis Canada male player of the year

2013 ? Tennis Canada male player of the year

2013 ? Lionel Conacher Award

2014 ? Emirates ATP Top 10 Trophy

2014 ? Tennis Canada male player of the year

2014 ? Lionel Conacher Award

2014 ? Canadian Club of Toronto 's Canadian of the Year

2015 ? Tennis Canada male player of the year

2016 ? Toronto Sports Hall of Honour male athlete of the year