

= Juan Martín del Potro =

Juan Martín del Potro ( Spanish pronunciation : [ ˈxwan maˈɾtiɲ del ˈpotɾo ] , born 23 September 1988 ) , often nicknamed Delpo , is an Argentine professional tennis player . His biggest achievement was winning the 2009 US Open , defeating Rafael Nadal in the semifinal and Roger Federer in the final . He was the first to defeat both Federer and Nadal during a major and was the only man outside the Big Four to win a major between the 2005 French Open and the 2013 US Open , a span of 35 tournaments . He is also the second Argentine and the fifth @-@ youngest man to win the US Open in the Open Era . His other career highlight was winning the bronze medal in men 's singles at the London Olympics in 2012 .

Del Potro achieved a top @-@ 10 ranking by the Association of Tennis Professionals ( ATP ) for the first time on 6 October 2008 . In January 2010 , he reached a career @-@ high ranking of World No. 4 , after which del Potro had to withdraw from most of the tournaments in 2010 due to a wrist injury .

He returned to the ATP World Tour on 15 February 2016 , at Delray Beach , after a long injury @-@ induced absence .

Having started playing tennis at the age of seven , del Potro won his first senior match in 2004 at the age of 15 . In 2008 , he became the first player in ATP history to win his first four career titles in as many tournaments . He also completed the second @-@ longest winning streak in 2008 , and the second longest by a teenager in the Open Era , behind Nadal ? with his winning sequence spanning 23 matches over five tournaments .

= = Early life = =

Juan Martín del Potro was born in Tandil , Argentina . He is of Italian and Spanish descent . His father , Daniel del Potro , played semi @-@ professional rugby union in Argentina and is a veterinarian . His mother , Patricia , is a teacher and he has a younger sister named Julieta . He also had an elder sister who died when she was 8 @-@ years @-@ old in a car accident . Del Potro speaks Spanish , English and some Italian . Aside from tennis , he enjoys playing association football and supports the Boca Juniors team in Argentina and Juventus in Italy . He would often dedicate time to both sports during his childhood , and Argentine @-@ Italian international footballer Mauro Camoranesi remains a close friend of del Potro .

Del Potro began playing tennis at the age of seven with coach Marcelo Gómez ( who also coached Tandil @-@ born players Juan Mónaco , Mariano Zabaleta and Máximo González ) . Del Potro 's talent was discovered by Italian ex @-@ tennis professional Ugo Colombini , who accompanied him through the initial phases of his young career , and is still today his agent and close friend . When questioned about his ambitions in tennis he replied , " I dream of winning a Grand Slam and the Davis Cup . " However , he has refused to participate in the Davis Cup several times . He is a Roman Catholic .

= = Tennis career = =

= = = 2002 ? 2005 = = =

As a junior in 2002 , del Potro won the Orange Bowl 14s title , beating Marin ?ili? en route to a victory over Pavel Tchekov in the final . In 2003 , at the age of 14 , del Potro received wild cards to three ITF Circuit events in Argentina , where he lost in straight sets in the first round of each .

As a junior , Del Potro reached as high as No. 3 in the combined junior world rankings in January 2005 .

In May 2004 , del Potro won his first senior match , at the age of 15 , at the ITF Circuit event in Buenos Aires by defeating Matias Niemiz . He then went on to lose in three sets to Sebastián Decoud in the second round . His next victory came over five months later against the Chilean

Álvaro Loyola in a tournament in Antofagasta . Later that year , del Potro reached the quarterfinals of the ITF Circuit event in Campinas , Brazil ; recording victories over Henrique Mello and Alessandro Camarco . Del Potro won two more matches before the end of the year and saw his world ranking rise from no . 1441 in August to no . 1077 in November . He also reached the finals in the Argentina Cup and Campionati Internazionali D'Italia Junior tournaments .

Del Potro reached his first final of the ITF Junior Circuit on 11 January 2005 , the Copa del Cafe ( Coffee Bowl ) - Junior ITF Tournament in Costa Rica , which he lost to Robin Haase in three sets . He was involved in a dispute with the umpire during this match , who decided to stop play because of rain , which del Potro believed favoured Haase . Because of the rain delays , the final set had to be played indoors ; this was the first time the indoor courts had been used in the 44 @-@ year history of the youth tournament .

At the age of 16 , del Potro reached his first senior singles final at the Futures tournament in Berimbau Naucalpan , Mexico , where he lost to Darko Madjarovski . He then went on to win consecutive titles at two Future ITF Circuit events in Santiago , Chile , including the 26th International Junior tournament . In the first tournament , he beat Jorge Aguilar , and in the second , he did not drop a set in the whole tournament and defeated Thiago Alves in the final , a player ranked more than 400 places higher at the time . He won his third title in his home country by defeating Damian Patriarca , who forfeited the match , at the ITF Circuit event in Buenos Aires .

Del Potro turned professional after the Italy F17 event in Bassano , and in his first professional tournament , the Lines Trophy in Reggio Emilia , he reached the semifinals , where he lost to countryman Martín Vassallo Argüello in three sets . Two tournaments later , he reached the final of the Credicard Citi MasterCard Tennis Cup in Campos do Jordão , Brazil , where he lost to André Sá in straight sets . After turning 17 , he won the Montevideo Challenger by defeating Boris Pa?anski in the final in three sets . That same year , he failed in his first attempt to qualify for his first Grand Slam , at the US Open , losing in the first round to Paraguayan Ramón Delgado . Throughout 2005 , del Potro jumped over 900 positions to finish with a world ranking of no . 158 , largely due to winning three Futures tournaments . He was the youngest player to finish in the year @-@ end top 200 .

== 2006 ==

In February , del Potro played his first ATP tour event in Viña del Mar , where he defeated Albert Portas , before losing to Fernando González in the second round . Later , seeded seventh , he won the Copa Club Campestre de Aguascalientes by defeating the likes of Dick Norman and Thiago Alves , before beating Sergio Roitman in the final .

Del Potro qualified for the main draw of his first Grand Slam in the 2006 French Open at the age of 17 . He lost in the opening round to former French Open champion and 24th seed Juan Carlos Ferrero . Having received a wild card , he reached the quarterfinals of the ATP event in Umag , Croatia , where he lost in three sets to the eventual champion , Stanislas Wawrinka . In Spain , he participated in the Open Castilla y León Challenger tournament held in Segovia , defeating top seed Fernando Verdasco in the quarterfinals and Benjamin Becker in the final .

Del Potro qualified for his first US Open in 2006 , after being seeded ninth in the qualifying stages , where he beat Brian Vahaly , Wayne Arthurs , and Daniel Köllerer in straight sets . In the US Open , he lost in the first round to fellow qualifier Alejandro Falla of Colombia in four sets . He went on to qualify for his first ATP Masters Series tournament in Spain , the Mutua Madrileña Madrid Open , where he lost in the first round to Joachim Johansson . After receiving a wild card thanks to Roger Federer , he reached the quarterfinals of the 2006 Davidoff Swiss Indoors in Basel , Switzerland ; defeating lucky loser Tobias Clemens in the first round and George Bastl in the second round , before losing to the eventual runner @-@ up Fernando González in three sets . Del Potro finished 2006 as the youngest player in the top 100 at 18 years , 2 months .

== 2007 ==

Del Potro began the year by reaching his first semifinal in ATP Adelaide , Australia , where he lost

to Chris Guccione , having beaten Igor Kunitsyn earlier in the day . He then reached the second round of the Australian Open , where he had to retire because of injury in his match against eventual finalist Fernando González in the fifth set . In February , del Potro played for Argentina in the first round of the Davis Cup against Austria , winning the fourth and deciding match against Jürgen Melzer in five sets , allowing Argentina to qualify for the quarterfinals .

Del Potro defeated Feliciano López before losing to eventual semifinalist Mardy Fish in the second round of the indoor Regions Morgan Keegan Championships . In his next ATP Masters event , he reached the second round of the Pacific Life Open , beating Gustavo Kuerten in the first round , but then losing to Richard Gasquet . Del Potro went further in the Sony Ericsson Open , reaching the fourth round , after he defeated three top @-@ 50 players : Jonas Björkman , Marcos Baghdatis , and Mikhail Youzhny , before falling to Rafael Nadal in two sets . In May , he lost in the first round of the French Open to eventual champion Nadal .

In his first grass @-@ court event , del Potro beat Thomas Johansson in two sets and reached the second round at the Queen 's Club , where he lost to Nadal . He also reached the quarterfinals in Nottingham the following week ; there he beat British qualifier Jamie Baker and Kunitsyn in the first two rounds , but lost to Ivo Karlovi? at the quarterfinal stage . At his inaugural Wimbledon Championships , he defeated Davide Sanguinetti in the first round , before losing to eventual champion Roger Federer in the second round , after a rain delay in the third set .

Del Potro lost to Frank Dancevic in three sets in the second round of the singles at the ATP event in Indianapolis . At the same event , partnered with Travis Parrott in doubles , he won his first doubles tournament , defeating Teymuraz Gabashvili and Karlovi? in the final . He regards this as a special victory , " It was fantastic to play doubles with Parrott . I 'm so happy because I 've never won a doubles tournament . For the rest of my life , I will remember this tournament . " Del Potro qualified for the ATP Masters Series event in Cincinnati , where he reached the third round . He defeated countryman Guillermo Cañas in the first round and Philipp Kohlschreiber in the second , before losing to former world no . 1 Carlos Moyá . At that year 's US Open , he defeated Nicolas Mahut and Melzer , before losing to eventual finalist and third seed Novak Djokovic in the third round . He also reached the third round of the Madrid Masters by beating Potito Starace and Tommy Robredo , before losing to eventual champion David Nalbandian in straight sets . In the last tournament of the year , the Paris Masters , he reached the second round , where he lost to Nikolay Davydenko . That year , del Potro was the youngest player to finish in the year @-@ end top 50 at 19 years , 2 months .

= = = 2008 : Breakthrough = = =

Del Potro 's first half of the season was hampered by injuries and a change of coach , starting with a first @-@ round loss in Adelaide , where he was the seventh seed . He then made it to the second round of the Australian Open in January , only to retire against David Ferrer due to an injury . Del Potro returned to the circuit in March , winning his first match against Jesse Levine at the Sony Ericsson Open , before losing in the second round to López . Struggling with injuries , his ranking fell as low as no . 81 in April . " At the start of the year , I was playing good , but I had many injuries , many problems with my body , with my physique " , said del Potro . " I changed my coach , changed my physical trainer , I changed everything . "

In May , del Potro had to retire again , this time in a first @-@ round match against Andy Murray at the Rome Masters . During the second set , the Argentine allegedly made derogatory comments about Murray 's mother which resulted in a complaint to the umpire . Del Potro 's serve was subsequently broken three times in a row , and he suffered a back injury , which caused his retirement . In his second Grand Slam of the year , the French Open , he was eliminated in the second round by Simone Bolelli in four sets . In June , he reached the semifinals of the Ordina Open , losing to eventual winner and top seed David Ferrer in straight sets . For the second year in a row , he was knocked out of Wimbledon in the second round ; he won his first @-@ round clash with Pavel ?nobel in straight sets , but then lost to Stanislas Wawrinka .

A successful summer followed for the Argentine . In July , del Potro and his team decided to remain

in Europe to test his fitness . " We decided to play on clay courts for my back because if I start to play again on hard courts , maybe I will injure it again " , he recalled . Del Potro won his first career ATP tour title at the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart , defeating Gasquet in straight sets in the final . A week later , del Potro reached his second career ATP Tour final at the Austrian Open in Kitzbühel , where he beat local hope and sixth seed Melzer in less than an hour , to claim his second title in two weeks . Having competed in just two clay tournaments all of the 2007 season , he never thought he would win his first two titles on clay courts .

In August , del Potro won his third consecutive title at the Countrywide Classic in Los Angeles , beating Andy Roddick in straight sets in the final . After the match , Roddick praised his opponent . " [ Del Potro ] hits this way and this way kind of equally and he can hit it from inside out and running to it , which is a good thing for him , bad for the rest of us " . A fourth consecutive title followed a week later in the Legg Mason Tennis Classic in Washington , D.C. , where he recorded a victory over Viktor Troicki , becoming the first player in ATP history to win his first four career titles in as many tournaments . " I don 't really understand what I did . It is difficult to believe that I have won four consecutive titles " , del Potro said , crediting coach Franco Davín for his impressive run . " He changed my game . He changed my mind . He changed everything . When I play and I see him in the stands , it gives me confidence . I can play relaxed . "

At the 2008 US Open , del Potro progressed to the third round , where he won his first match to five sets in the circuit against Gilles Simon to reach the round of 16 . He went on to defeat Japanese teenager Kei Nishikori in straight sets . In the quarterfinals , he was stopped by eventual finalist Murray , losing after almost four hours . The defeat came after 23 consecutive victories : the second @-@ longest winning streak in 2008 and the longest winning streak by a player outside the top 10 in the last 20 years .

Del Potro was selected to play his first home @-@ based Davis Cup tie , between Argentina and Russia . He won his first singles match against Davydenko in three sets . He also won the fifth and deciding match against Igor Andreiev in straight sets , booking Argentina a place in the final .

At the AIG Japan Open Tennis Championships , he made the final by defeating 11th seed Jarkko Nieminen , top seed and defending champion Ferrer , and fourth seed Richard Gasquet . He was defeated by Tomá? Berdych in the final . At the Madrid Masters , he lost in the quarterfinals in straight sets to Roger Federer . He reached the semifinals of his next tournament , the Davidoff Swiss Indoors , before losing to countryman Nalbandian . He was beaten by Nalbandian again in his next tournament , this time it was in the second round of the Paris Masters . Del Potro blamed fatigue for his defeat , " It 's difficult to play the last tournament of the year . I was tired , my mind was in Argentina [ the venue for the Davis Cup final ] " . This left del Potro 's qualification for the 2008 Tennis Masters Cup out of his hands ; fortunately for him , Jo @-@ Wilfried Tsonga beat James Blake in the semifinals , which was enough to ensure his place at the year @-@ end event .

Del Potro won one match at the Masters Cup , against Tsonga , but lost his other two matches against the higher @-@ ranked Djokovic and Davydenko , meaning that he exited the tournament in the round @-@ robin stage . This was his last event of the year on the ATP Tour . He went on to lose one match in the Davis Cup final , against López , as his team succumbed to a 3 ? 1 loss against Spain . He was forced to withdraw from his second match due to a thigh injury and was replaced by José Acasuso . Nonetheless , del Potro enjoyed a successful season ; winning four titles and finishing 2008 as the youngest player in the top 10 , top @-@ ranked Argentine , and highest @-@ ranked South American .

= = = 2009 : Maiden Grand Slam title = = =

At the Heineken Open in Auckland , New Zealand , del Potro was the top seed . He defeated American Sam Querrey in the final to win the title , the fifth of his career . Seeded eighth at the Australian Open , he beat Marin ?ili? in the fourth round . Del Potro 's tournament ended in his next match , when he lost in straight sets to Federer . At the BNP Paribas Open , the sixth seed del Potro advanced to the quarterfinals , where he was defeated by world no . 1 Nadal . Del Potro avenged that loss the following week at the Sony Ericsson Open , where he came back from a double break

down in the third set at 0 ? 3 to defeat Nadal in the quarterfinals . This was the first time del Potro had defeated Nadal in five meetings . Despite a loss in the semifinals to Murray , del Potro reached a career @-@ high ranking of world no . 5 .

In the clay @-@ court season , del Potro was eliminated in the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters by Ivan Ljubi?i? . In Rome , del Potro beat Victor Troicki and Wawrinka to advance to the quarterfinals , where he was defeated by defending champion Djokovic in straight sets . This meant del Potro 's head @-@ to @-@ head record with the Serb was now 0 ? 3 . Del Potro then played at the 2009 Madrid Masters . After defeating Murray for the first time in the quarterfinals , he lost to Federer in the semifinals . At the French Open , where he was fifth seed , del Potro defeated Michaël Llodra , Troicki , Andreev , and ninth seed Tsonga en route to the quarterfinals . He then defeated three @-@ time former quarterfinalist Tommy Robredo to get to his first semifinal of a Grand Slam . He was defeated in a close semifinal , where he was leading by a set twice , by eventual champion Federer who , after their match , said : " [ Del Potro ] is young and strong , I have a lot of respect for him . " Prior to this encounter , del Potro had never taken a set from Federer in their five previous career meetings .

At the 2009 Wimbledon Championships , his poor grass @-@ court form from the past continued , as he went down to unseeded Lleyton Hewitt in the second round . In the Davis Cup quarter @-@ final against the Czech Republic , del Potro won his matches against Ivo Miná? and Berdych in straight sets , but Argentina still lost the tie 2 ? 3 , eliminating them from the competition . A few weeks later , he defeated Hewitt and Fernando González en route to the Washington final . He successfully defended his title against top @-@ seeded Wimbledon finalist Andy Roddick to win his second tournament of the year and become the first player since Andre Agassi to win back @-@ to @-@ back Washington titles . Del Potro played the following week at the Masters 1000 in Montreal , where he was seeded sixth , defeating world no . 2 Nadal in the quarterfinals , his second win in a row over Nadal . He then defeated Roddick in the semifinals , saving a match point , to advance to his first Masters 1000 final , and to improve his head @-@ to @-@ head record against Roddick to 3 ? 0 . In the final , he lost against Murray in three sets . He later withdrew from the next Masters 1000 event in Cincinnati due to fatigue .

Seeded sixth at the 2009 US Open , del Potro began by defeating Juan Mónaco and Jürgen Melzer in straight sets , before dropping a set but defeating Köllerer to reach the fourth round . He defeated a resurgent Juan Carlos Ferrero to advance to the quarterfinals for the second consecutive year . Del Potro then advanced to the semifinals by defeating Marin ?ili? . Del Potro was down a set and a break , before winning 17 of the final 20 games to win the match . His advance to the semifinals ensured his return to the top 5 in the rankings . He then easily defeated and crushed world No. 3 and reigning Australian Open champion Rafael Nadal in the semifinals to reach his first Grand Slam final . This was his third consecutive victory over Nadal and made him the first Argentine to reach a Grand Slam singles final since Mariano Puerta at the 2005 French Open . In the finals , del Potro rallied from a set and a break down to defeat world no . 1 and five @-@ time defending champion Roger Federer in five sets ; his first victory over Federer after six previous defeats , and Federer 's first loss in the US Open since 2003 . Del Potro stated , " Since [ I was ] young , I dream with this and take trophy with me " , said del Potro , who became the first Argentine male to win the title since Guillermo Vilas in 1977 . " I did my dream , and it 's unbelievable moment . It 's amazing match , amazing people . Everything is perfect . " After the match , Federer praised del Potro ; " I thought he hung in there and gave himself chances and , in the end , was the better man . "

He is the first player since countryman David Nalbandian to defeat Federer at the US Open , and at 198 cm ( 6 ft 6 in ) , he is the tallest ever Grand Slam champion , a record he now shares with Marin ?ili? , the 2014 US Open winner . Besides Nadal and Djokovic , del Potro is the only player to defeat Federer in a Grand Slam final , and the first player to defeat both Nadal and Federer in the same Grand Slam tournament .

Dick Enberg hosted the post @-@ match ceremony during which a victorious Del Potro requested to address his fans in Spanish . Enberg declined the request saying that he was running out of time , but went on to list the corporate sponsored prizes Del Potro won . A couple of minutes later , Del Potro made the same request again , and only then did Enberg relent saying , " Very quickly , in

Spanish , he wants to say hello to his friends here and in Argentina " . An emotional del Potro finally spoke a few sentences in Spanish to a cheering crowd . Many viewers expressed disappointment with Enberg and broadcaster CBS over the interview . A CBS executive later defended Enberg , noting that the contract with the United States Tennis Association required that certain sponsors receive time during the ceremony .

In his first match since the US Open , Del Potro was upset by world no . 189 Édouard Roger @-@ Vasselin in straight sets at the Rakuten Japan Open Tennis Championships in Tokyo . He then lost his second straight match to Melzer in the second round at the Masters 1000 event in Shanghai , retiring while trailing in the second set . This retirement caused concerns over the length of the tennis season . He had to retire again in the Paris Masters quarterfinals when down 0 ? 4 to Radek ?t?pánek due to an abdominal injury . In November , del Potro competed in the ATP World Tour Finals , where he lost his first round @-@ robin match against Andy Murray , but he managed to defeat Fernando Verdasco in his second match to keep his hopes alive . After defeating Roger Federer in the following match , he qualified for the semifinals , ousting Murray by the slimmest possible margin of one game . He defeated Robin Söderling in the semifinals , before losing to Nikolay Davydenko in the final . Del Potro finished 2009 as the youngest player in the top 10 , top @-@ ranked Argentine , and highest @-@ ranked South American for the second consecutive year .

== = 2010 : Best Ranking and wrist injury == =

Del Potro started his 2010 season at the AAMI Kooyong Classic in Melbourne , Australia with a win over Croatian world no . 24 Ivan Ljubi?i? . On 11 January , he moved up to a career high world no . 4 . He was scheduled to face Frenchman Jo @-@ Wilfried Tsonga on day 2 of the Kooyong Classic exhibition tournament , but withdrew due to a wrist injury . He came into the 2010 Australian Open with the injury not healed , and was forced to take a month off after the event . In the fourth round , he fell to eventual semifinalist Marin ?ili? .

Following the Australian Open loss , del Potro missed several tournaments , including the Masters tournaments at Indian Wells and Miami , which were touted as potential return dates , due to the persistent wrist injury . Even though he withdrew from the Monte @-@ Carlo Rolex Masters , he regained the world no . 4 ranking , due to Murray 's early exit in the second round . He then withdrew from Barcelona and the Rome Masters . On 4 May , del Potro took the option of having an operation to fix the injury . On 19 May , del Potro said he would not defend his US Open title , but if all went well , he would appear after the event , targeting the Paris Masters as a possible comeback . However , on 22 July , the USTA stated that del Potro was expected to defend his US Open crown . The player himself confirmed that his comeback to the tour would be the Thailand Open and said nothing about the New York event . On 2 August , del Potro returned to the practice courts . A week before the start of the US Open , after practicing for two weeks , del Potro withdrew from the event , as he felt he was not ready to compete at the highest level .

After the nine @-@ month break , del Potro confirmed that he would make his return at the 2010 PTT Thailand Open . In his return match , he lost in the first round to Olivier Rochus . He then also played at the 2010 Rakuten Japan Open Tennis Championships , but again lost in the opening round , this time to Feliciano López .

== = 2011 : Return to tour == =

Del Potro began his 2011 season at the Medibank International as a wildcard entry . In the second round , Del Potro was defeated by Florian Mayer of Germany in straight sets , despite winning against sixth seed Feliciano López in three sets . His next tournament would be the first Grand Slam of the year at the 2011 Australian Open , where Del Potro was defeated by 21st seed Marcos Baghdatis in the second round . As a result , Del Potro slipped further down the rankings to no . 485 .

After the Australian Open , he participated in the 2011 SAP Open in San Jose , where he was

accepted into the main draw via protected ranking ( PR ) . He reached the semifinals without dropping a set , however he lost to top seed Fernando Verdasco in straight sets . Del Potro 's next scheduled tournament was the 2011 Regions Morgan Keegan Championships and the Cellular South Cup , where he was accepted into the main draw via wildcard . Here , he made his second consecutive ATP semifinal , where he lost to top seed , world no . 8 , and eventual champion Andy Roddick . To continue preparing for his first ATP Masters event since 2009 , Del Potro entered the 2011 Delray Beach International Tennis Championships . He defeated Ri?ardas Berankis , Teymuraz Gabashvili , Kevin Anderson and second seed Mardy Fish , to advance to an ATP @-@ level final stage of a tournament since 2009 at the Barclays World Tour Finals in London . In the final , he defeated an erratic Janko Tipsarevi? in two sets to get back in the winners circle .

Del Potro 's next tournament was the ATP Masters at the 2011 BNP Paribas Open . He reached the semifinals , where he lost to top seeded Rafael Nadal in straight sets . Del Potro then flew to Key Biscayne , Miami to participate in the second ATP Masters of the year at the 2011 Sony Ericsson Open . Del Potro made it to the fourth round , in the third round he defeated World no.4 Robin Söderling in straight sets , however in the next round he lost to eventual semifinalist Mardy Fish in straight sets .

He then played in 2011 Estoril Open , which was del Potro 's first tournament on clay since he lost the 2009 Roland Garros semifinal to the eventual champion Roger Federer . In Estoril , he defeated Fernando Verdasco in the final . On the way to the final , del Potro defeated top seeded Robin Söderling ( Who was two time @-@ finalist in the French Open ) and dropped just one set in his five matches . After suffering an 8 @-@ millimeter tear in his left rectus , del Potro withdrew from 2011 Mutua Madrid Open and did not participate in the 2011 Internazionali BNL d 'Italia , but confirmed that he would play the French Open . Del Potro lost to Novak Djokovic in the third round .

Del Potro reached the round of 16 at Wimbledon for the first time by defeating Flavio Cipolla , Olivier Rochus , and Gilles Simon . He then lost to world no . 1 Rafael Nadal , in four sets , in the fourth round . Del Potro returned to the top 20 at world no . 19 for the first time in nearly a year . His next tournament was the Farmers Classic in Los Angeles , where he received a first @-@ round bye as the second seed . He defeated James Blake but was defeated by Ernests Gulbis in the quarterfinals .

At the 2011 Rogers Cup , seeded 16th , del Potro defeated Jarkko Nieminen before losing to Marin ?ili? in the second round . At the Western & Southern Masters tournament , del Potro lost to Roger Federer , snapping the two @-@ match winning streak he had against his rival . Del Potro entered the 2011 US Open seeded 18th . He beat Filippo Volandri and Diego Junqueira before losing to Gilles Simon in the third round , thus ending his US Open campaign .

After the US Open , del Potro played in the Davis Cup semifinal against Serbia , winning both of his rubbers against Janko Tipsarevi? and world no . 1 Novak Djokovic . This helped Argentina to a 3 ? 2 victory over Serbia in the semifinals , booking their place in the final . He then played in the Stockholm Open , losing in the second round to James Blake . He then reached the final in Vienna , losing for the first time to Jo @-@ Wilfried Tsonga . Despite having won the first set , he eventually lost the final . Del Potro then reached the semifinals of the Valencia Open 500 , losing to eventual champion Marcel Granollers . He then withdrew from the Paris Masters due to a shoulder injury , wiping out his chances of qualifying for the Year @-@ End Championships .

Del Potro played in the Davis Cup Final , with the title on the line and looking to fulfill his childhood dream . He lost in the second rubber to David Ferrer , despite being two sets to one up , eventually losing in a pulsating five @-@ set contest in a match lasting over five hours . With his country down 2 ? 1 , del Potro needed to beat Rafael Nadal in the reverse singles to keep the tie going . Del Potro dominated the first set , but could not keep his level up and lost in four sets . For the third time in six years , Argentina lost in the finals of the Davis Cup World Group , this time 3 ? 1 .

Del Potro finished the year ranked world no . 11 , despite being ranked no . 485 at one stage . He was named 2011 ATP Comeback Player of the Year .

== 2012 : Return to the Top 10 and Olympic Medal ==

Del Potro 's first tournament of the year was the 2012 Apia International Sydney , where he was the top seed . He made it to the quarterfinals after receiving a bye into the second round . He defeated Łukasz Kubot in the second round . In the quarterfinals , he was beaten by Marcos Baghdatis .

In the first round of the 2012 Australian Open , Del Potro defeated Adrian Mannarino in four sets . He reached the quarterfinals of the Grand Slam for the second time , losing to Roger Federer in the quarterfinals .

He went on to play in Rotterdam at the 2012 ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam , where he was third seed . Here he defeated Tomáš Berdych in order to make it to his first final of an ATP 500 level tournament or higher after returning from his wrist injury in 2010 . He lost to Federer in straight sets in the final . At the Open 13 in Marseille , del Potro defeated Davydenko , Gasquet , Tsonga , and Michaël Llodra in the final to get his tenth ATP championship . Del Potro then had a good run in Dubai , reaching the semifinals , then losing to Roger Federer again in straight sets . Del Potro lost in the quarterfinals of the BNP Paribas Open to Federer for the fourth time that year . He made it to the fourth round of the Sony Ericsson Open , but lost to David Ferrer in two sets .

Del Potro started his clay @-@ court campaign of 2012 in the Davis Cup Quarterfinals against Croatia . He won his first rubber against Ivo Karlović and then demolished Marin Čilić in the reverse singles . He continued his clay @-@ court season at the Estoril Open , where he was the defending champion and the top seed . He did not drop a set en route to the finals , where he beat Frenchman Richard Gasquet in straight sets in the final to collect his 11th ATP World Tour title . He next competed in the Madrid Masters as the twelfth seed and defeated Florian Mayer , Mikhail Youzhny , Marin Čilić , Alexandr Dolgoplov , but lost to Tomáš Berdych in the semifinals .

Del Potro played at the second Grand Slam of the year , the French Open , where he was seeded ninth . Del Potro defeated Albert Montañés , Édouard Roger @-@ Vasselin and Marin Čilić . He defeated seventh seed Tomáš Berdych before losing to Roger Federer in the quarterfinals in five sets , after being up two sets to love .

At Wimbledon , del Potro beat Robin Haase , Go Soeda , and Kei Nishikori , before losing to David Ferrer in the fourth round .

At the Olympic Games , del Potro faced Roger Federer in the semifinals , which resulted in the longest " best of three sets " tennis match by duration in history , lasting four hours and 26 minutes , half an hour longer than the previous record holder , a Milos Raonic ? Jo @-@ Wilfried Tsonga match that took place three days earlier ; the final set took two hours and 43 minutes . Del Potro lost the encounter , 6 ? 3 , 6 ? 7 , 17 ? 19 . Less than two hours after this marathon , del Potro took to the tennis court again with Gisela Dulko for their quarterfinal mixed doubles match against Lisa Raymond and Mike Bryan , which they lost . Two days later , del Potro defeated Novak Djokovic in the bronze @-@ medal match . It was Del Potro 's first victory over Djokovic , excluding a win that occurred in the Davis Cup where Djokovic retired after dropping the first set .

Del Potro returned to hard courts to play at the Rogers Cup , where he was upset by 33 @-@ year @-@ old world no . 40 Radek ?t?pánek . Del Potro lost in the quarterfinals of the US Open against Djokovic .

In October , del Potro beat qualifier Grega ?emlja to win the Erste Bank Open in Vienna . He then beat Roger Federer to win the Swiss Indoors title , in Basel . The following week , he suffered a third @-@ round loss to Michaël Llodra at the BNP Paribas Masters . During the round @-@ robin stage of the ATP World Tour Finals , he won two of his three matches and qualified for the semifinals , where he was defeated by Djokovic in three sets , after leading by a set and a break .

He ended the year ranked world no . 7 , with a 65 ? 17 win @-@ loss record and four titles captured throughout the season .

= = = 2013 : Continued successes and back to the top 5 = = =

Del Potro began his season at the Australian Open , where he was upset in the third round by Jérémy Chardy in five sets . The next month , he won the Rotterdam Open , beating Gaël Monfils , Ernest Gulbis , Jarkko Nieminen , Grigor Dimitrov in the semifinals , and Julien Benneteau in the final . At Dubai , Juan Martín beat Marcos Baghdatis , saving three match points , Somdev



Devvarman , and Daniel Brands , but lost in the semifinals to eventual winner Novak Djokovic .

At Indian Wells , del Potro defeated Nikolay Davydenko , Björn Phau , and Tommy Haas . In the quarterfinals , he beat Andy Murray for the second time in six matches . In the semifinals , he upset top seed Novak Djokovic , to end the Serb 's streak of 22 victories . He then lost in the final to Rafael Nadal . Del Potro withdrew from the clay court season and from the French Open due to a viral infection .

On grass , del Potro began at the 2013 Aegon Championships , where he won his first comeback match in three sets against Xavier Malisse , who had achieved his biggest win at the Queens Club against Novak Djokovic in 2010 . Del Potro came back from behind in the third set to take the match . He defeated Daniel Evans , only to be upset on the quarterfinals by Lleyton Hewitt

At Wimbledon , Del Potro won against Albert Ramos , Jesse Levine , and Grega Žemlja before advancing past the fourth round for the first time in his career , thanks to a win over Andreas Seppi . He then played David Ferrer and , despite slipping badly during the fifth point of the match and aggravating a pre-existing leg injury , requiring over five minutes of treatment and by his own admission being close to forfeiting the match , he recovered to defeat Ferrer in straight sets to advance to his first Grand Slam semifinal since the 2009 US Open without dropping a set . On 5 July , Djokovic defeated him in five sets in 4 hours and 43 minutes , making it the longest semifinal in the history of Wimbledon men 's singles .

Starting the US Series , del Potro won the 2013 Citi Open in Washington DC , where he got a first round bye , and then defeated Ryan Harrison , Bernard Tomic , and Kevin Anderson on his way to the quarterfinals , Tommy Haas in the semifinals , and won the final against John Isner in three sets . Before the final he didn 't drop a set . This was his third title at the event and his second of the year . Del Potro reached the semifinals of Western & Southern Open where he won against Nikolay Davydenko , Feliciano López , in the quarterfinals Dmitry Tursunov , and faced Isner again , this time in the semifinals . He lost the match in three sets . Del Potro got to the second round of the US Open , after a four set victory against Guillermo García López , only to be upset by Lleyton Hewitt in five sets .

At the 2013 Japan Open , Del Potro beat Marcos Baghdatis , Carlos Berlocq , Alexandr Dolgoplov , and Nicolas Almagro before beating third seed Milos Raonic to win his third title of the year .

In October , Del Potro reached the final of the 2013 Shanghai Rolex Masters , defeating Philipp Kohlschreiber , Tommy Haas , Nicolás Almagro , and Rafael Nadal ( for the first time since the semifinals of the 2009 US Open ) en route , but eventually losing to defending champion Novak Djokovic in a third set tiebreak . Later , he beat Roger Federer at the 2013 Swiss Indoors in the final , his fourth title of the year . However , lost to Federer at the 2013 BNP Paribas Masters and in a winner take all , round robin clash in the 2013 ATP World Tour Finals . He finished the year with a 51 ? 16 record , winning four titles overall and \$ 4 @, @ 294 @, @ 039 . Del Potro was named Argentina 's Sportsman of the Year .

== 2014 ? 2016 : Second wrist injury ==

Juan Martin del Potro began his 2014 ATP World Tour season at the Apia International Sydney as the top seed , winning the final of the tournament against defending champion Bernard Tomic in only 53 minutes . It was his fifth title as top seed .

When asked to play for Argentina in the Davis Cup , del Potro declined , arguing problems with the press and the team , and his decision to prioritize his personal career .

At the Australian Open , he won his opening match against Rhyne Williams , but lost to Roberto Bautista Agut in the second round , having led two sets to one . Despite his second round loss , del Potro returned to being world no . 4 because David Ferrer made it only to the quarterfinals and thus lost 360 points , whereas del Potro lost only 45 points . After the Australian Open , del Potro required treatment for his left wrist , which has been giving him trouble since 2012 .

In February , at the 2014 Rotterdam Open , he eased past Gaël Monfils and Paul-Henri Mathieu in straight sets , but fell to Latvian Ernests Gulbis in the quarterfinals . In the 2014 Dubai

Tennis Championships , he retired against Somdev Devvarman after losing the first set due to his wrist injury . The same injury led to his subsequent withdrawal from Masters 1000 series events in Indian Wells and Miami , meaning that del Potro dropped to world no . 8 .

Del Potro underwent surgery to repair the problem in his left wrist , missing the rest of the 2014 season .

Del Potro began his 2015 season with wrist pain and was not sure whether he would play Sydney and the Australian Open . However , at the last minute he decided to play both tournaments . He had not played a tournament since February 2014 , but he started the 2015 Apia International Sydney with a straight @-@ sets win against Sergiy Stakhovsky . In the second round , his opponent was world no . 19 and top seed Fabio Fognini . It was a tough test for del Potro , but he proved to be stronger than the Italian . Del Potro was through to the quarterfinals , but lost to Mikhail Kukushkin in two tiebreakers . After his Sydney campaign , he was drawn to play Jerzy Janowicz in the first round of the 2015 Australian Open , Del Potro withdrew due to his wrist injury . Del Potro played in Miami and was not seen for nearly a year , under going surgery again in June 2015 .

He played his first tournament since undergoing wrist surgery in the 2016 Delray Beach Open . In his first competitive match in almost a year , Del Potro defeated Denis Kudla in two sets . He followed this up with a straight sets win over Australian John @-@ Patrick Smith . He defeated J  r  my Chardy in two sets in the quarterfinal , reaching his first semifinal since 2014 ; which he lost to eventual champion Sam Querrey . He returned to Indian Wells , competing in the first round , winning against Tim Smyczek in two sets . He lost in the next round to Tomas Berdych in straight sets . His next tournament was the Miami Open . He won his first match against countryman Guido Pella in two sets . He was set to play Roger Federer for the first time in more than two years but just hours before the match Federer withdrew due to a stomach virus . He then played lucky loser and countryman Horacio Ceballos and lost in straight sets . He then competed in his first clay court tournament since 2013 in the BMW Open . He won his first clay court match in three years against Dustin Brown , beating him in two sets . In his second match of the tournament he beat Jan @-@ Lennard Struff in his first three set match of the year . He then lost to Philipp Kohlschreiber in the quarterfinals in straight sets . The next tournament he entered was the 2016 Mutua Madrid Open . He had his best victory after coming back on the tour defeating 14th seed Dominic Thiem in straight sets . He lost his next match to Jack Sock in two sets . He then competed at the 2016 MercedesCup . His first grass tournament since 2013 Wimbledon Championships . He started off against Grigor Dimitrov , winning in straight sets . He then saw off John Millman in two sets . He faced 4th seed Gilles Simon in the quarterfinal , emerging victorious in three sets . He then played 7th seed Philipp Kohlschreiber , who had defeated him earlier this year at the 2016 BMW Open , losing in straight sets .

After missing the French Open in May to focus on the grass season , he entered Wimbledon and was drawn against Frenchman Stephane Robert . He defeated Robert 6 @-@ 1 7 @-@ 5 6 @-@ 0 to set up a second @-@ round match with the 4th seed Stanislas Wawrinka , whom he defeated 3 @-@ 6 6 @-@ 3 7 @-@ 6 6 @-@ 3 . Del Potro would then lose in 4 sets against the 32nd seed Lucas Pouille in the 3rd round .

= = Playing style = =

Del Potro is an offensive baseliner with a very powerful serve and deep , flat , topspin groundstrokes . His forehand is one of his main strengths and possibly the most powerful in the game , capable of frequently generating speeds of 100 mph , and he also possesses a very consistent and powerful double @-@ handed backhand . Del Potro is also known to have a very low unforced error rate , making him a very good defender too . He 's also comfortable going to the one @-@ handed slice backhand , and also has considerable touch for a bigger player . Del Potro 's height allows him to get a powerful first serve , often clocked in the mid @-@ 130s , and maxing out at 147 mph ( M1000 Madrid , vs Murray ) , and makes it easier for him to return high topspin balls .

= = Equipment and apparel = =

Del Potro used the Wilson Hyper ProStaff 6 @. @ 1 Midplus Stretch early on in his career , and has continued to use this racquet under new paint jobs years later . Del Potro is very superstitious , and after suffering a wrist injury shortly after switching to the Wilson BLX Pro Tour paint job in 2010 , he returned to playing with the then outdated Wilson K @-@ Factor 6 @. @ 1 95 paint job . He particularly favored the exact racquets he had used to win his only Grand Slam title at the 2009 US Open . He again refused to update his racquet to the Wilson BLX Juice Pro in 2012 , and as of 2014 , has only a few K @-@ Factor racquets left . For strings , he uses Luxilon ALU Power strung at 58 lbs .

His clothing sponsor is Nike . He used to wear sleeveless shirts , but more recently has worn crew shirts , and often also sports double @-@ wide wristbands and a bandana . For shoes , he wears Nike Air Max Cages .

= = Rivalries = =

= = = Big Four = = =

Del Potro has a 14 ? 39 ( 26 @. @ 42 % ) record against all members of the Big Four .

= = = = Roger Federer = = = =

Del Potro has a 5 ? 15 ( 25 % ) record against Roger Federer . Despite Roger Federer winning the most matches , Del Potro won their biggest match at the 2009 US Open final , but Federer won their long 2012 Olympic semifinal 19 ? 17 in the final set . Del Potro also captured both 2012 and 2013 Swiss Indoors finals against the seven @-@ time titlist of the tournament .

= = = = Novak Djokovic = = = =

Del Potro has a 3 ? 11 ( 21 @. @ 43 % ) record against Novak Djokovic . In 2012 , Del Potro won the Bronze medal at the 2012 Summer Olympics in straight sets . However , in 2013 , Djokovic got the upper hand on the rivalry again and won an epic five @-@ setter at the 2013 Wimbledon Championships and a thrilling three @-@ setter final at the 2013 Shanghai Masters . Del Potro defeated Djokovic en route to his second Masters 1000 final , at the 2013 Indian Wells Masters , where Del Potro lost to Nadal .

= = = = Rafael Nadal = = = =

Del Potro has a 4 ? 8 ( 33 @. @ 33 % ) record against Rafael Nadal . The pair played three semifinals and two finals ( One Davis Cup rubber ) . Del Potro bested Nadal in the semifinals for the first time after a 0 ? 4 ( 0 % ) record en route to his 2009 US Open title which was the only other time ( other than Novak Djokovic ) where a player managed to beat both Roger Federer and Nadal in the same Grand Slam tournament . However the Spaniard managed to win both times in the Indian Wells Masters encounters , in the 2011 semifinal and the 2013 final . Nadal also won the fourth and last rubber of the 2011 Davis Cup final against the Argentine . Del Potro gained the upper hand at the 2013 Shanghai Masters , defeating Nadal to reach the final where he lost to Djokovic .

= = = = Andy Murray = = = =

Del Potro has a 2 ? 5 ( 28 @. @ 57 % ) record against Andy Murray . In their seven matches , only one was played in this decade . They only played one final , in the 2009 Rogers Cup , which was won by Murray . However , when Del Potro beat Murray in the quarterfinals of the 2013 BNP Paribas Open , Del Potro won against all members of the big four in 2013 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Grand Slam tournament performance timeline = = =

Finals : 1 ( 1 title )

= = = Year @-@ End Championship performance timeline = = =

Finals : 1 ( 1 runner @-@ up )