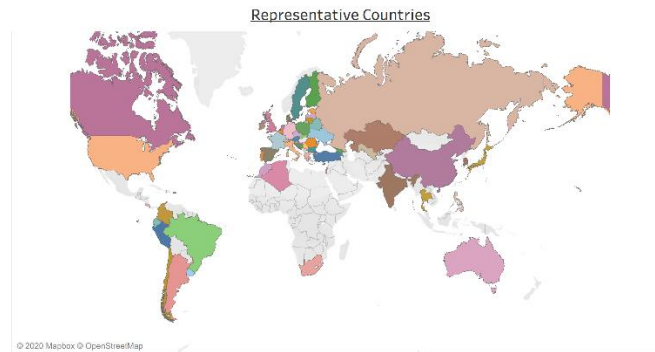


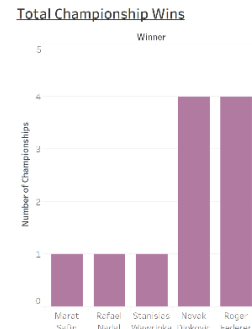
The live visualizations for the report are available at: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/raghav.kaul/>

What does it take to become a Champion (II)?

The Australian Open has long been one of the most grueling and competitive tournaments in tennis. The Men's Championship hosts over 128 players from over 50 countries to compete for the ultimate prize in hard court tennis. We observe the following map of participant countries between 2004 – 2014 to witness the truly global nature of the sport.

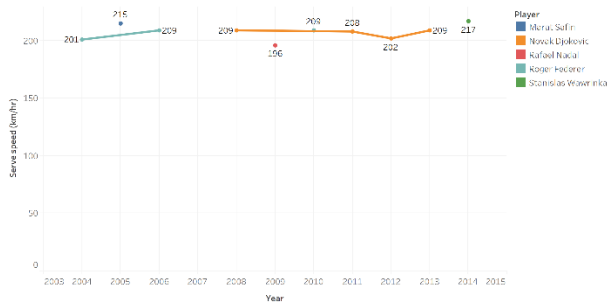


Winning in tennis, unlike many popular sports is not dependent on a last-minute goal or a Hail Mary pass. Every point is fiercely contested over 3-5 sets and the winner is only crowned when he out-skills or out endures his opponent. The data over 10 years indicates that there have been some players from European countries have been clearly dominating the hard-court scene, with Roger Federer in the past and Novak Djokovic currently. The following visualizations shows the dominance of certain countries/players over a 10 year period.

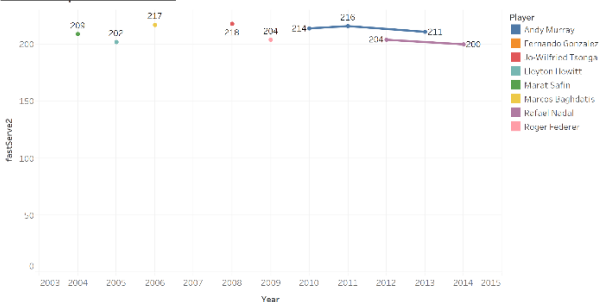


So, what makes a champion? Is it the speed of his serve, or what kind of gear he has? Not exactly. In fact, we see that sheer numbers mean nothing in the game of tennis. Even though our champions register slower serve speeds, we can still see them easily beating out their opponents.

Champions Fastest Serves

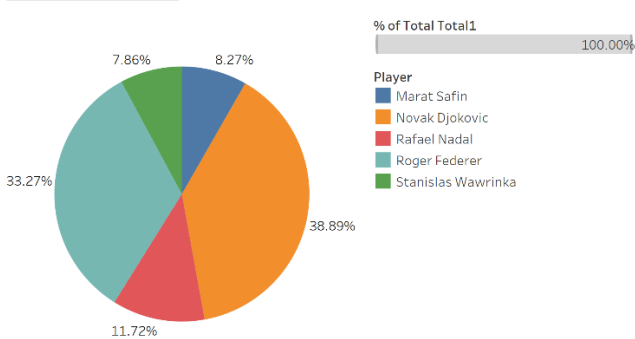


Runners-up Fastest Serves

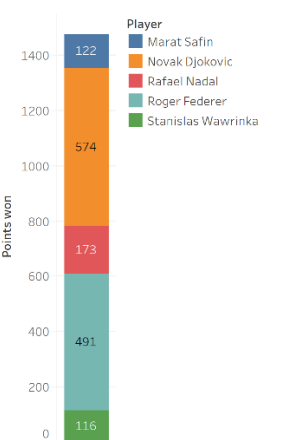


Djokovic's and Federer's dominance is a testament to their consistency. This is confirmed by our visualizations of the number of winners and total points won in the finals.

Total Points Won

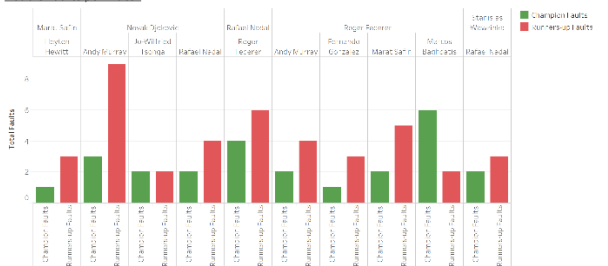


Total Winners



Hence, we observe that champions are consistent in their performance and outclass their opponents on multiple occasions. This idea is further corroborated by their consistently lower numbers of double faults and errors per match. Maybe a combination of skill and consistency is what makes a champion!

Double Faults per Match



Errors per Match



The King of Clay destined to fail

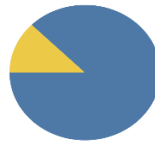
Rafael Nadal is widely regarded as one of the greatest tennis players of all time. With 19 grand slam titles under his belt, including a whopping 12 French Open titles, he is reasonably touted as the ‘King of Clay’. However, with so much success on clay courts, Nadal has been unable to enjoy the same domination on other surfaces. The Australian Open is a testament to his poor run of form on hard courts. With the following visualizations we see, just how much his numbers deplete when it comes to the Australian Open.

Tournament Progress



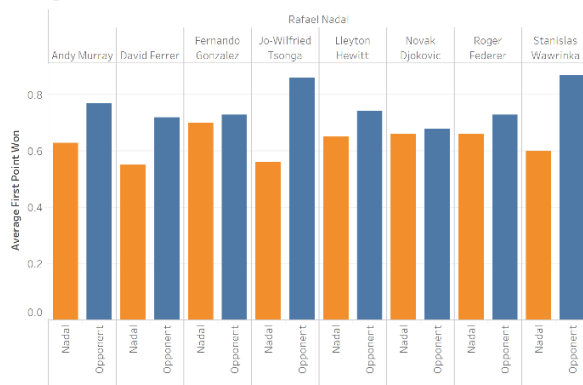
From the above graph, we can see even after reaching the final thrice, Nadal only manages to convert it into a championship win once in 2009. Compare this with the 12/13-win ratio at the French Open and we see how the hard court makes a difference. The below pie chart shows the sub-par performance of Nadal in the knockout stages with him winning only 11.11% of the matches.

Percentage of Knockout
Rounds Won By Nadal



The poor performance can be attributed (amongst many other things) to Nadal's inability to secure opening points and winners which in turn shifts all the momentum towards his opponents. The following graphs show Nadal's consistently lower numbers than his opponents in knockout stages.

Average First Points Won



Winners

