When I started following the sport of tennis, I saw many singles players and doubles teams reaching finals without dropping a set. But I was equally fascinated by certain matches, because of how scintillating a player’s level is. To me, it did not matter whether a match was completed in straight sets or deciding sets. But I liked how these players found their best form.

# **2015 FRENCH OPEN**

Serena Williams (USA) is a baseline player. Her game is built around taking direct control of rallies with her powerful, stable serve, return of serve, and forceful groundstrokes from both her forehand and backhand. Her forehand and double-handed backhand are the most powerful shots in the women’s game. Her serve is the greatest in women’s tennis history, because she constantly projects great pace and placement with it. Her serve is also lethal because of her ability to constantly place powerful shots with great accuracy. She is a strong volleyer, as she can finish points off at the net. She possesses a powerful overhead and clever touch at the net. Many people think that she is only an offensive player. But she is also strong in defense. Timea Bacsinszky (SWITZERLAND) is a tempo and offensive player. She possesses a strong backhand and has solid anticipation when she comes into the net when she plays offense.

When Serena faced Bacsinszky in the semifinals of this tournament, this was a match I will never forget. Serena produced a breathtaking recovery of her signature come-from-behind win. In the first set, Bacsinszky broke Serena in the fifth game. This was followed by the same break in the fifth game of the second set. Bacsinszky was four games away from pulling off an upset. But Serena broke in the sixth game to get back on serve. In the seventh game, Serena lost her first service point. But she won four straight service points to get her nose in front. In the eighth game, Bacsinszky lost her first service point before she won her next two service points. But Serena won three straight service points to break. Then, she efficiently served out the second set in the ninth game. Things could have been tough for Serena if she broke to earn the second set. If Serena broke to claim the second set, then she would have to serve in the first game of the third set. But after Serena magnificently served out the second set, I think she was more at ease, because she would receive serve to start the third set. In the first game of the third set, Bacsinszky won her first two service points. But Serena won four straight points to break. In the second game, Serena lost her first two service points before she found a big first serve on the third point. Bacsinszky won the next point to earn two break points. But Serena won four straight service points to consolidate her lead. This was followed by a break in the third game. In the fourth game, Serena won her first two service points before Bacsinszky won the next point. But Serena won her last two service points. Then, Serena broke in the fifth game to serve for the match in the sixth game. In the sixth game, Serena raced out to triple match point. She missed a drop volley on the first point. But she sealed the match on the second point after she forced a backhand return error from Bacsinszky. I initially had no hope for Serena to win this match. But when she broke in the sixth and eighth games and positively served out the second set in the ninth game, I think she did an excellent job to successfully turn this match around. The American kept her stats clean with eight aces, zero double faults, 37 winners, and 30 unforced errors.