When “consistency” comes to mind, what occurs to me? Do I think of myself doing Zumba dance fitness workouts seven days a week on my living room floor? Or could it be when I get my office work done by the end of the week every single Friday? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, consistency is the quality of staying the same, even at contrasting times. I believe that the definition is a smooth fit in the sport of tennis.

The Grand Slam tournaments are four important yearly events. The women play best of three sets, while the men play best of five sets. The Grand Slams last two weeks and each Grand Slam is on a different surface. Outside of the Grand Slams are the ATP [Association of Tennis Professionals] and WTA [Women’s Tennis Association] tours. The ATP is for the men, while the WTA is for the women. For me though, it doesn’t matter how many titles a player wins. I believe that reaching finals without dropping a set already makes a player a winner, because their stability is solid from start to finish. I chose to write about women’s singles, men’s singles, and mixed doubles matches. First, I added headings with the player’s name and team name. Next, I listed all the finals as my subheadings. For the results that are withdrawals, walkovers, and three-set finals, I’ll highlight the results in yellow with red text. I’ll either analyze certain matches from specific rounds, or I’ll sum up the main heading with all my subheadings.

# **SERENA WILLIAMS (USA)**

Serena is a baseline player. Her game is balanced around her powerful serve and forceful groundstrokes. Her greatest strength is her serve because it has quick pace and accurate placement. She possesses an accurate, stable ball toss, which lets her serve to any position and dominate a rally from the first stroke. She also holds effective, accurate kick-and-slice serves, which she uses on second serves, to minimize double faults. She hits both her forehand and backhand to create reliable powerful, heavy, dominating groundstrokes and create angles to hit winners from any. Her forehand is hit with heavy topspin, both crosscourt and down-the-line. She can hit her two-handed backhand flat with speed, power, and depth in the same way. She is a skilled net player and can frequently finish points at the net, either with clever touch, aggressive drive volleys, or stable, powerful, reliable overhead smashes. Her return game lets her defuse powerful first serves and attack weak second serves. She is an excellent defender because she can counterpunch against aggressive opponents until she creates an opportunity to hit a winner. She is an exceptional athlete with her movement, speed, court coverage, agility, flexibility, balance, and footwork. Her on-court intelligence, shot selection, and point construction let her effectively execute her playing style. This helped her reach multiple finals on four different surfaces [carpet, clay, grass, and hard] without dropping a set:

**1999 OPEN GDF SUEZ [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Asa Svensson (SWEDEN) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Round of 16 Nathalie Tauziat (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Julie Halard-Decugis (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Semifinal Nathalie Dechy (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-4
5. Final Amélie Mauresmo (FRANCE) Win 6-2 3-6 7-6[4]

**1999 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Jessica Steck (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-1 7-5
2. Round of 32 Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Round of 16 Cara Black (ZIMBABWE) Win 6-0 7-5
4. Quarterfinal Mary Pierce (FRANCE) Win 7-5 7-6[1]
5. Semifinal Sandrine Testud (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-0
6. Final Steffi Graf (GERMANY) Win 6-3 3-6 7-5

**1999 MIAMI OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Jessica Steck (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-1 7-5
2. Round of 32 Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Round of 16 Cara Black (ZIMBABWE) Win 6-0 7-5
4. Quarterfinal Mary Pierce (FRANCE) Win 7-5 7-6[1]
5. Semifinal Sandrine Testud (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-0
6. Final Venus Williams (USA) Loss 6-3 3-6 7-5

**1999 GRAND SLAM CUP [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Quarterfinal Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Semifinal Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-3 6-4
3. Final Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-1 3-6 6-3

**2000 CANADIAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Patty Schnyder (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Round of 16 Anna Kournikova (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Amy Frazier (USA) Win 6-0 6-1
4. Semifinal Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final Martina Hingis (SWITZERLAND) Loss 0-6 6-3 3-0 RETIRED

**2000 TOYOTA PRINCESS CUP [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Tamarine Tanasugarn (THAILAND) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Jelena Dokic (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-4
3. Semifinal Dája Bedáňová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-4
4. Final Julie Halard-Decugis (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-1

**2001 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Adriana Gerši (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 32 Gala León García (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Round of 16 Magdalena Maleeva (BULGARIA) Win 7-5 6-2
4. Quarterfinal Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Semifinal Venus Williams (USA) Won WALKOVER
6. Final Kim Clijsters (BELGIUM) Win 4-6 6-4 6-2

**2001 WTA FINALS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Silvia Farina Elia (ITALY) Win 6-0 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Win 6-3 7-6[5]
3. Semifinal Sandrine Testud (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-0
4. Final Lindsay Davenport (USA) Won WALKOVER

**2002 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Lilia Osterloh (USA) Win 7-5 6-1
2. Round of 32 Katarina Srebotnik (SLOVENIA) Win 6-1 6-0
3. Round of 16 Marissa Gould (USA) Win 6-1 6-4
4. Quarterfinal Martina Hingis (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-4 6-0
5. Semifinal Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-2 6-2
6. Final Jennifer Capriati (USA) Win 7-5 7-6[4]

**2002 GERMAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Barbara Schett (AUSTRIA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Magdalena Maleeva (BULGARIA) Win 7-6[2] 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Amélie Mauresmo (FRANCE) Won WALKOVER
4. Semifinal Anna Smashnova (ISRAEL) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Loss 6-2 1-6 7-6[5]

**2002 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Evie Dominikovic (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 6-1
2. Round of 64 Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Round of 32 Els Callens (BELGIUM) Win 7-6[5] 7-6[2]
4. Round of 16 Chanda Rubin (USA) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Quarterfinal Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-3 6-2
6. Semifinal Amélie Mauresmo (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-1
7. Final Venus Williams (USA) Win 7-6[4] 6-3

**2002 US OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Corina Morariu (USA) Win 6-2 6-3
2. Round of 64 Dinara Safina (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-1
3. Round of 32 Nathalie Dechy (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Round of 16 Dája Bedáňová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-1
5. Quarterfinal Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-2 6-2
6. Semifinal Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-3 7-5
7. Final Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-4 6-3

**2002 TOYOTA PRINCESS CUP [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Patricia Wartusch (AUSTRIA) Win 6-0 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Nicole Pratt (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 6-0
3. Semifinal Amy Frazier (USA) Win 7-6[0] 6-3
4. Final Kim Clijsters (BELGIUM) Win 2-6 6-3 6-3

**2003 OPEN GDF SUEZ [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Myriam Casanova (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-0 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Janette Husárová (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Semifinal Eleni Daniilidou (GREECE) Win 6-2 6-0
4. Final Amélie Mauresmo (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-2

**2003 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 7-5 6-1
2. Round of 32 Tatiana Panova (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Round of 16 Iroda Tulyaganova (UZBEKISTAN) Win 6-0 6-4
4. Quarterfinal Marion Bartoli (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Semifinal Kim Clijsters (BELGIUM) Win 6-4 6-2
6. Final Jennifer Capriati (USA) Win 4-6 6-4 6-1

**2003 CHARLESTON OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Dally Randriantefy (MADAGASCAR) Win 6-3 6-0
2. Round of 16 Conchita Martínez (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Jelena Dokic (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Semifinal Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-1 7-5
5. Final Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Loss 6-3 6-4

**2007 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Anastasia Rodionova (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Round of 32 Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-4
3. Round of 16 Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Quarterfinal Nicole Vaidišová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-4
5. Semifinal Shahar Pe’er (ISRAEL) Win 7-6[4] 6-1
6. Final Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Win 0-6 7-5 6-3

The Miami Open is usually held between March and April. Alongside the Indian Wells Masters, it is the second event of the “Sunshine Double”, which is a series of two consecutive hard-court tournaments in the US at the beginning of the season. They are the only two tournaments, besides the four Grand Slams, where the main draw extends beyond eight days. The tournament was held at the Tennis Center at Crandon Park in Key Biscayne, Florida from 1987 through 2018. Since then, the venue shifted to Miami Gardens at the Hard Rock Stadium.

Henin has an all-court playing style. Her footwork, balance, and court coverage let her change from defense to aggression. Her one-handed backhand is hit flat with heavy topspin and slice as a drop shot to break up the pace of the rally. She uses her forehand to dictate the rally. Henin broke Serena in the first, third, and fifth games to whitewash the American in the first set without the loss of a single game. In the second set, both players traded breaks in the first, second, seventh, eighth, and ninth games. Henin had two match points on her serve in the 10th game when she served for the match. But Serena broke in the 10th game and held to love in the 11th game. The 12th game now turned into a **MUST-HOLD** game for Henin, because the Belgian was serving to stay in the second set. In the 12th game, Henin lost her first two service points before she found two big serves. But instead of reaching game point to force a second-set tiebreak, Henin lost her last two service points to give Serena the second set. In the third set, Serena broke in the second and eighth games, while Henin broke in the fifth game.

**2007 KREMLIN CUP [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Tatiana Perebiynis (UKRAINE) Win 7-5 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Nicole Vaidišová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 7-6[7]
3. Semifinal Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[2] 6-1
4. Final Elena Dementieva (RUSSIA) Loss 5-7 6-1 6-1

**2008 US OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Kateryna Bondarenko (UKRAINE) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Round of 64 Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Round of 32 Ai Sugiyama (JAPAN) Win 6-2 6-1
4. Round of 16 Séverine Beltrame (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-2
5. Quarterfinal Venus Williams (USA) Win 7-6[6] 7-6[7]
6. Semifinal Dinara Safina (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2
7. Final Jelena Janković (SERBIA) Win 6-4 7-5

The US Open is the fourth and final Grand Slam tournament of the year. It follows the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon. It starts on the last Monday of August and continues for two weeks, with the middle weekend coinciding with the US Labor Day holiday weekend. Like Wimbledon, it is also the oldest tennis championship in the world. The tournament was first played in 1881 on grass courts until 1974. From 1975 until 1977, it was switched to clay. Since 1978, the tournament has been played on acrylic hardcourts at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, NY. The tournament uses standard tiebreakers [first to seven, win by two] in every set of a singles match. For the other three Grand Slam events, there are special scoring methods for a match that reaches six games all in the last possible set [third for women, fifth for men]. In the French Open, the decisive set continues until a player takes a two-game lead. At the other three remaining Grand Slams, an extended tiebreaker to 10 points is played.

Venus has an all-court playing style. She can hit her groundstrokes flat and with topspin. Her height lets her reach difficult returns while positioned at the net. In the first set, Venus broke in the third game. But Serena broke in the 10th game and saved two set points to claim the first-set tiebreaker. In the second set, Venus broke in the sixth game. But Serena saved nine set points and claimed six of the last seven points of the match to seal the second-set tiebreak.

Janković is a defensive baseline player and counterpuncher. She prefers to use her groundstrokes both down-the-line and crosscourt. When Serena faced Janković in the final, Janković broke in the third and ninth games. But Serena broke in the fourth, sixth, and 10th games to claim the first set. In the second set, Janković broke in the seventh game. The ninth game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Serena, because she was serving to stay in the set. Janković had triple set point on Serena’s serve in the ninth game. But Serena won five straight points to force Janković to serve for the set in the 10th game. In the 10th game, Janković fought back from triple break point down and earned a set point on her serve. But the Serbian coughed up an ill-timing double fault at that moment and Serena broke to get back on serve. After Serena held in the 11th game, the 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Janković’s, because she was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. As a result, Serena successfully took home the title on her third opportunity.

**2010 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Michelle Larcher de Brito (PORTUGAL) Win 6-0 6-4
2. Round of 64 Anna Chakvetadze (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-1
3. Round of 32 Dominika Cibulková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-0 7-5
4. Round of 16 Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[9] 6-4
5. Quarterfinal Na Li (CHINA) Win 7-5 6-3
6. Semifinal Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-6[5] 6-2
7. Final Vera Zvonareva (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2

Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. It has been held at the All-England Club in London since 1877. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments alongside the Australian Open, French Open, and US Open. It is played on outdoor grass courts with two retractable roofs over two main courts. The tournament takes place over two weeks in late June and early July, starting on the last Monday in June and ending with the singles finals on Saturday and Sunday at the end of the second week. Since 2015, the event moved back by a week to start in early July. Its traditions are a strict all-white dress code for competitors.

Cibulková’s game has aggression, enthusiasm, and quick pace between points. Her playing style has a vibrant amount of energy that is based on speed and power. Her power lets her produce deep groundstrokes with her forehand and powerful shots with her backhand. In the first set, Serena broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games to claim the first set. In the second set, both players traded service holds for the first 11 games. The 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Cibulková, because the Slovakian was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. In the 12th game, Cibulková won her first service point. But Serena won the next two points to put herself two points away from a victory. Cibulková won her next two points to reach a game point and send the second set into a tiebreak. But instead of forcing a second-set tiebreak, Cibulková dropped her last two service points of the match.

**2011 US OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Bojana Jovanovski Petrović (SERBIA) Win 6-1 6-1
2. Round of 64 Michaëlla Krajicek (NETHERLANDS) Win 6-0 6-1
3. Round of 32 Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-1 7-6[5]
4. Round of 16 Ana Ivanović (SERBIA): 6-3 6-4 Win 6-3 6-4
5. Quarterfinal Nastia Pavlyuchenkova (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-1
6. Semifinal Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-2 6-4
7. Final Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) Loss 6-2 6-3

Wozniacki is a defensive baseliner with a counterpunching playing style. Her strengths are her movement, speed, court coverage, footwork, anticipation, balance, and stamina. Her strongest weapon is her two-handed backhand because she can use it to turn defense into offense when she hits it flat with depth and pace down-the-line. But her forehand lacks depth, power, and speed. After Serena won 2010 Wimbledon without dropping a set, she ended her season due to injuries. This caused her ranking to fall out of the top 100. But when she came back in the second half of the 2011 season, she won her two titles of the season in Stanford and Toronto to secure a top 32 seeding for the US Open. Serena’s draw was littered with tricky potential banana skins, because Azárenka and Ivanović were both ranked in the top 10, while Wozniacki was the number one ranked player in the world. But when Wozniacki and Serena faced off in the semifinals, the Dane was unable to display the form that took her to the top of the WTA rankings. In the first set, Serena broke in the fourth and sixth games to serve for the first set. Wozniacki broke in the seventh game. But Serena broke in the eighth game to claim the first set. In the second set, Serena earned the lone break in the third game. Wozniacki broke in the ninth game when Serena served for the match. But Serena broke again in the 10th game to seal the match in straight sets. With this win, Serena dropped only 29 games in six matches. Even though Serena came up short to Stosur in the title match, she still took plenty of positives. “11 months ago, I was in the hospital and struggling to walk. But now I just beat the number one player in the world. It meant a lot to me to come out here as an American and be in the final, especially on a special day for the US on the 10-year anniversary of the September 11th attacks.”

**2012 CHARLESTON OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Round of 16 Marina Erakovic (NEW ZEALAND) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Semifinal Sabine Lisicki (GERMANY) Win 4-1 RETIRED
5. Final Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-0 6-1

**2012 SILICON VALLEY CLASSIC [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Nicole Gibbs (USA) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Chanelle Scheepers (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-4 6-0
3. Semifinal Sorana Cîrstea (ROMANIA) Win 6-1 6-2
4. Final Coco Vandeweghe (USA) Win 7-5 6-3

The Silicon Valley Classic is held on the campus of San Jose State University in San Jose, CA. Since 1971, the tournament has been the oldest women’s-only tournament in the world and played on outdoor hardcourts. It is the first women’s tournament in the annual US Open Series. The US Open Series is a series of North American professional tennis tournaments that lead up to and include the US Open. The tournament was played in 1971 in San Francisco. It was sponsored by Bank of the West from 1992 to 2017 and held on the campus of Stanford University from 1997 to 2017. The event moved to San Jose State University in 2018 and was renamed as the Silicon Valley Classic. Vandeweghe has a strong serve. Her groundstrokes are hit heavy and flat. She is efficient at the net and enjoys moving forward to avoid extending the rallies. In the first set, Serena broke in the second and fourth games, while Vandweghe broke in the fifth and seventh games. The ninth game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Serena, because she was serving to stay in the first set. Vandeweghe won the first two points on Serena’s serve. But Serena won four straight service points and broke in the 10th game. The 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Vandeweghe, because she was serving to force a first-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the first set. Vandeweghe lost her first service point before she won three straight points. But Serena won the last four points of the set. This was followed by a break in the fourth game of the second set.

**2012 SUMMER OLYMPICS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Jelena Janković (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Round of 32 Urszula Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-2 6-3
3. Round of 16 Vera Zvonareva (RUSSIA): 6-1 6-0 Win 6-1 6-0
4. Quarterfinal Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-0 6-3
5. Semifinal Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-1 6-2
6. Final Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-1

**2012 US OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Coco Vandeweghe (USA) Win 6-1 6-1
2. Round of 64 María José Martínez Sánchez (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Round of 32 Katya Makarova (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-0
4. Round of 16 Andrea Hlaváčková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-0 6-0
5. Quarterfinal Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 6-1 6-3
6. Semifinal Sara Errani (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-2
7. Final Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-2 2-6 7-5

**2012 WTA FINALS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Group Stage 1 Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Group Stage 2 Na Li (CHINA) Win 7-6[2] 6-3
3. Group Stage 3 Angelique Kerber (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-1
4. Semifinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-2 6-1
5. Final Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-3

**2013 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Varvara Lepchenko (USA) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 16 Alizé Cornet (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Sloane Stephens (USA) Win 6-4 6-3
4. Semifinal Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win WALKOVER
5. Final Nastia Pavlyuchenkova (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-1

**2013 CHARLESTON OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Camila Giorgi (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-3
2. Round of 16 Mallory Burdette (USA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 6-1
4. Semifinal Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Final Jelena Janković (SERBIA) Win 3-6 6-0 6-2

**2013 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Laura Robson (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 6-2
2. Round of 16 Dominika Cibulková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-0 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-0
4. Semifinal Simona Halep (ROMANIA) Win 6-3 6-0
5. Final Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-1 6-3

**2013 SWEDISH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Sesil Karatantcheva (BULGARIA) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Round of 16 Anna Tatishvili (USA) Win 6-2 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Lourdes Domínguez Lino (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Semifinal Klára Koukalová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-0 6-4
5. Final Johanna Larsson (SWEDEN) Win 6-4 6-1

**2013 CANADIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Kirsten Flipkens (BELGIUM) Win 6-0 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Magdaléna Rybáriková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Semifinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 7-6[3] 6-4
5. Final Sorana Cîrstea (ROMANIA) Win 6-2 6-0

**2013 US OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Round of 64 Galina Voskoboeva (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-3 6-0
3. Round of 32 Slava Shvedova (KAZAKSHTAN) Win 6-3 6-1
4. Round of 16 Sloane Stephens (USA) Win 6-4 6-1
5. Quarterfinal Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-0
6. Semifinal Na Li (CHINA) Win 6-0 6-3
7. Final Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 7-5 6-7[6] 6-1

**2013 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-2
2. Round of 32 Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 6-4 7-5
3. Round of 16 Maria Kirilenko (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 7-5
4. Quarterfinal Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-1 6-4
5. Semifinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-2 6-2
6. Final Jelena Janković (SERBIA) Win 6-2 6-2

**2014 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Andrea Petkovic (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Dominika Cibulková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Semifinal Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 7-6[7]
4. Final Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-4 7-5

The Australian Open series is a group of tune-up tournaments for the Australian Open. The Brisbane International is the first tournament in the Australian Open series. It takes place at the Queensland Tennis Center in Brisbane. Serena first played at this tournament in 2012. She won her opener against Jovanovski before she withdrew from the tournament with a left ankle injury. But in 2013 and 2014, she became the only player to win the title two consecutive years in a row without dropping a set both times. I chose to write about Serena’s 2014 title win against Azárenka. Azárenka is an aggressive baseline player. She hits her groundstrokes with depth and power. She also likes to move her opponents around counterpunch until she can create the opportunity to hit a low-risk winner. Her strongest groundstroke is her two-handed backhand, which she uses to dominate the rallies. Her movement, speed, court coverage, and footwork let her mix offense and defense together. Serena chose to receive serve in this match. In the first set, Serena earned the lone break in the seventh game. In the second set, Serena broke in the first game. Then, Azárenka broke in the fourth and sixth games. But Serena broke in the seventh game. Serena was in danger of losing the second set when she dropped her first two service points in the 10th game. But she won four straight points to hold. While the next 11th game wasn’t necessarily a **MUST-HOLD** game for Azárenka, it was still an important one since she failed to capitalize on the opportunity when she won Serena’s first two service points in the previous 10th game. In the 11th game, Azárenka held game point on her serve twice to force Serena to serve to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the set in the 12th game. But Serena broke Azárenka in the 11th game to serve for the match in the 12th game. In the 12th game, Serena won her first two service points before Azárenka found a cross-court return winner on the next point. Then, Serena won her last two service points of the match. With her 2013 and 2014 title wins, Serena maintained her perfect streak of 16 sets won and zero sets lost. Even though Serena chose not to participate at this tournament anymore after her successful title wins in 2013 and 2014, she cemented herself head and shoulders above the rest of the women. Her accomplishment was rare, because it was tough for any woman to be able to achieve this feat.

**2014 US OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Taylor Townsend (USA) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Round of 64 Vania King (USA) Win 6-1 6-0
3. Round of 32 Varvara Lepchenko (USA) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Round of 16 Kaia Kanepi (ESTONIA) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Quarterfinal Flavia Pennetta (ITALY) Win 6-3 6-2
6. Semifinal Katya Makarova (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-3
7. Final Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-3 6-3

**2016 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Camila Giorgi (ITALY) Win 6-4 7-5
2. Round of 64 Su-Wei Hsieh (CHINESE TAIPEI) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Round of 32 Daria Kasatkina (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Round of 16 Margarita Gasparyan (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-1
5. Quarterfinal Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-1
6. Semifinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-0 6-4
7. Final Angelique Kerber (GERMANY) Loss 6-4 3-6 6-4

**2016 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Laura Siegemund (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 32 Yulia Putintseva (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 7-6[2] 6-0
3. Round of 16 Kateryna Bondarenko (UKRAINE) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Quarterfinal Simona Halep (ROMANIA) Win 6-4 6-3
5. Semifinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-4 7-6[1]
6. Final Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Loss 6-4 6-4

**2016 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Anna-Lena Friedsam (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 16 Christina McHale (USA) Win 7-6[7] 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-0
4. Semifinal Irina-Camelia Begu (ROMANIA) Win 6-4 6-1
5. Final Madison Keys (USA) Win 7-6[5] 6-3

**2017 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Belinda Bencic (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 64 Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Round of 32 Nicole Gibbs (USA) Win 6-1 6-3
4. Round of 16 Barbora Strýcová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-5 6-4
5. Quarterfinal Jo Konta (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 6-3
6. Semifinal Mirjana Lučić-Baroni (CROATIA) Win 6-2 6-1
7. Final Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-4 6-4

# **NOVAK DJOKOVIC (SERBIA)**

# Djokovic is a baseline player. He has deep, penetrating groundstrokes on both wings. His strongest shot is his backhand down the line because he can hit it with pace and precision. His flexibility, agility, court coverage and mobility let him hit winners from unsustainable positions. His return of serve is a powerful weapon for him because he can use it both on defense and offense. He is efficient off both the forehand and backhand returns because he can frequently get the return in play deep with pace. He occasionally uses a backhand underspin drop shot and sliced backhand. This helped him reach multiple finals across hard, clay, and grass without dropping a set:

# **2007 ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

# Round Robin Jan Hájek (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-0 6-1

# Round Robin Alun Jones (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 6-2

# Quarterfinal Paul Goldstein (USA) Win 6-4 7-5

# Semifinal Joachim Johansson (SWEDEN) Win 6-3 6-2

# Final Chris Guccione (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-7[6] 6-4

# **2007 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

# Round of 64 Daniele Bracciali (ITALY) Win 7-6[4] 6-4

# Round of 32 Michaël Llodra (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-1

# Round of 16 Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-3

# Quarterfinal Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-4

# Semifinal Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-0 6-1

# Final Guillermo Cañas (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-2 6-4

# **2008 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

# Round of 128 Benjamin Becker (GERMANY) Win 6-0 6-2 7-6[5]

# Round of 64 Simone Bolelli (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-2 6-2

# Round of 32 Sam Querrey (USA) Win 6-3 6-1 6-3

# Round of 16 Lleyton Hewitt (AUSTRALIA) Win 7-5 6-3 6-3

# Quarterfinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-3 7-5

# Semifinal Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) Win 7-5 6-3 7-6[5]

# Final Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRANCE) Win 4-6 6-4 6-3 7-6[2]

# **2008 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

# Round of 64 Andreas Seppi (ITALY) Win 6-3 7-6[3]

# Round of 32 Philipp Kohlschreiber (GERMANY) Win 6-3 6-2

# Round of 16 Guillermo Cañas (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 6-3

# Quarterfinal Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Win 7-6[5] 6-2

# Semifinal Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-2

# Final Mardy Fish (USA) Win 6-2 5-7 6-3

# **2008 CINCINNATI MASTERS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

# Round of 32 Simone Bolelli (ITALY) Win 7-6[2] 7-6[2]

1. Round of 16 Andreas Seppi (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Ernests Gulbis (LATVIA) Win 6-3 6-4
3. Semifinal Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-1 7-5
4. Final Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Loss 7-6[4] 7-6[5]

**2008 THAILAND OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Simon Stadler (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Robin Söderling (SWEDEN) Win 6-4 7-5
3. Semifinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-5 6-1
4. Final Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRANCE) Win 7-6[4] 6-4

**2009 CINCINNATI MASTERS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Ivan Ljubičić (CROATIA) Win 7-6[5] 6-4
2. Round of 16 Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Gilles Simon (FRANCE) Win 6-4 7-5
4. Semifinal Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-4
5. Final Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) Loss 6-1 7-5

**2010 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Gong Maoxin (CHINA) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Round of 16 Mardy Fish (USA) Win WALKOVER
3. Quarterfinal Gilles Simon (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Semifinal John Isner (USA) Win 7-6[1] 6-2
5. Final David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-4

**2011 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Denis Istomin (UZBEKISTAN) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Round of 32 James Blake (USA) Win 6-0 6-2
3. Round of 16 Viktor Troicki (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Quarterfinal Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-4 6-2
5. Semifinal Mardy Fish (USA) Win 6-3 6-2
6. Final Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 4-6 6-3 7-6[4]

**2011 CANADIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Nikolay Davydenko (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-1
2. Round of 16 Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Win 7-5 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Gaël Monfils (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-1
4. Semifinal Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRANCE) Win 6-4 3-0 RETIRED
5. Final Mardy Fish (USA) Win 6-2 3-6 6-4

**2012 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Marcos Baghdatis (CYPRUS) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Round of 32 Viktor Troicki (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-4
3. Round of 16 Richard Gasquet (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-3
4. Quarterfinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-2 7-6[1]
5. Semifinal Juan Mónaco (ARGENTINA) Win 6-0 7-6[5]
6. Final Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-1 7-6[4]

**2012 SHANGHAI MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Tommy Haas (GERMANY) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 5-7 7-6[11] 6-3

**2013 DUBAI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Viktor Troicki (SERBIA) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Round of 16 Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 6-1 7-6[4]
3. Quarterfinal Andreas Seppi (ITALY) Win 6-0 6-3
4. Semifinal Juan Martín Del Potro (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 7-6[4]
5. Final Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-5 6-3

**2014 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 32 Florian Mayer (GERMANY) Win WALKOVER
3. Round of 16 Tommy Robredo (SPAIN) Win 6-3 7-5
4. Quarterfinal Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-5 6-3
5. Semifinal Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win WALKOVER
6. Final Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-3

**2014 PARIS MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Philipp Kohlschreiber (GERMANY) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Round of 16 Gaël Monfils (FRANCE) Win 6-3 7-6[2]
3. Quarterfinal Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-5 6-2
4. Semifinal Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win 6-2 6-3
5. Final Milos Raonic (CANADA) Win 6-2 6-3

**2015 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Simone Bolelli (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-1
2. Round of 16 Zhang Ze (CHINA) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Quarterfinal John Isner (USA) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Semifinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-3
5. Final Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-2

**2015 SHANGHAI MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Martin Kližan (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 16 Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Bernard Tomic (AUSTRALIA) Win 7-6[6] 6-1
4. Semifinal Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-1 6-3
5. Final Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-4

**2016 QATAR OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Dustin Brown (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-2
2. Round of 16 Fernando Verdasco (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Leonardo Mayer (ARGENTINA) Win 7-5 6-3
4. Semifinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 7-6[3]
5. Final Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-2

**2016 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Kyle Edmund (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Round of 32 João Sousa (PORTUGAL) Win 6-4 6-1
3. Round of 16 Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Quarterfinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Semifinal David Goffin (BELGIUM) Win 7-6[5] 6-4
6. Final Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win 6-3 6-3

**2016 MADRID OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Borna Ćorić (CROATIA) Win 6-2 6-4
2. Round of 16 Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Milos Raonic (CANADA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Semifinal Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win 6-3 7-6[4]
5. Final Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 3-6 6-3

**2016 CANADIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Gilles Müller (LUXEMBOURG) Win 7-5 7-6[3]
2. Round of 16 Radek Štěpánek (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-6[6] 6-4
4. Semifinal Gaël Monfils (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win 6-3 7-5

The Canadian Open is held in Ontario and Quebec. The competition is played on outdoor hard courts. Prior to 2011, the tournament was held during separate weeks in the July–August period. But since then, the two competitions are held during the same week in August. The events alternate each year between the cities of Montreal and Toronto. From 2021, in even-numbered years, the men’s tournament is held in Montreal, while the women's tournament is held in Toronto, and vice versa in odd-numbered years. The Toronto tournament is held at Sobeys Stadium and the Montreal tournament is held at IGA Stadium.

When I first wrote about this tournament, I came off mega excitement with Serena tying Graf’s record with her 22nd Grand Slam title win at Wimbledon. After Serena won Wimbledon, she was expected to kick off her US Open series campaign at the Canadian Open. But she chose to withdraw from the tournament due to a shoulder injury. I was curious to see how the rest of the women would step up in her place. It was easy for me to believe that the field would play with more freedom, after they heard about Serena’s withdrawal. But I realized that this was easier said than done. Ironically, Serena ended up being far away from what was going on in this tournament, because every single woman got pushed to three sets in their matches and had to deal with nonstop rain delays. At that moment, any hopes I had for the women were completely gone. But Djokovic kept the stability alive in the singles edition with winning all his matches in straight sets and avoiding the nonstop rain delays to successfully won the title without dropping a set.

Müller has a crafty playing style. He has a powerful lefty serve and sublime net skills. His serve can drag returners off court on the advantage side. He can also attack behind his serve or backhand. Djokovic chose to receive serve in his opener against Müller. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first 10 games. In the 11th game, Müller lost his first service point before he won his next two service points. But Djokovic won three straight points to earn the lone break of the first set in the 11th game. Then, Djokovic successfully served out the first set in the 12th game without facing any break points. Things could have been tough for Djokovic if Müller held in the 11th game. Had that been the case, the 12th game would have been a **MUST-HOLD** game for Djokovic, because the Serbian would have had to serve to force a first-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the set. But combined with the untimely unforced errors from Müller, Djokovic turned the set around in his favor with two backhand winners, the first a backhand pass down the line and the second a sharp-angled backhand crosscourt, to earn the key break in the 11th game. The second set featured breaks in the third, fourth, ninth, 10th, 11th, and 12th games. In the second-set tiebreak, Müller earned the first minibreak. But Djokovic won six straight points to seal the deal.

Štěpánek is a serve-and-volley player. He has a strong first serve, but his second serve is also equally stable with a high amount of topspin, which gives him time to come up to the net. He has great reach and anticipation at the net, which lets him finish would-be passing shots and engage in volley-to-volley exchanges. He likes to engage in baseline rallies. His groundstrokes let him maintain solid ground at the baseline. If he gets caught up in a long baseline rally, he will place a deep groundstroke or drop-shot and come up to the net to volley and finish off the point quickly. In the first set, Djokovic earned two breaks in the fourth and eighth games. In the second set, Štěpánek earned the lone break of the second set in the first game. But Djokovic returned the favor with breaks in the fourth and 10th games.

Berdych is an attacking player, who can create effortless power from the baseline with his racquet head speed. He hits both his forehand and his backhand with pace and looks to take the ball on the rise at every opportunity. He also comes to the net on occasion to finish points quickly. He goes for big returns off both wings and can put his opponents on defense in their service games. His power off the ground is devastating and can unsettle even the best players in the world. He can hit winners from anywhere on the court and change the pace of a rally with a single big strike. He uses his backhand for both offense and defense. While his two-handed topspin drive can push players behind the court, his slice can also keep him in points long enough to draw errors from his opponents. His height lets him take control of the points with his serve. But his two biggest weaknesses are his movement and shot selection. He is not a quick sprinter at the back of the court, and he also tends to choose the wrong moments to pull the trigger at times, which leads him to cough up many unforced errors. In the first set, Djokovic broke in the second game, but Berdych returned the favor in the ninth game when Djokovic served for the first set. In the first-set tiebreaker, Djokovic earned the first minibreak. Berdych won five consecutive points and earned three set points. But Djokovic won the last three points of the first-set tiebreak and broke in the third game of the second set.

Monfils is a baseliner, who uses placement to defeat his opponents. He is known for his athleticism and court coverage by using slides to retrieve balls. His ability to switch from defense to offense quickly can surprise his opponents. He can create tremendous pace on his groundstrokes off both wings, especially on his forehand. In the first set, Monfils broke in the third game. But Djokovic returned the favor with two consecutive breaks in the fourth and sixth games. In the second set, Djokovic broke in the first and seventh games.

Nishikori is a baseline player. He can create pace on his flat backhand. He can play defensively to wear out his opponents. He likes to take the ball early without negotiating stability, which lets him take time away from his opponents. He has quick, superb return off serves. In the first set, Djokovic earned the lone break in the sixth game. In the second set, Djokovic broke in the third and 11th games, while Nishikori returned the favor in the sixth game. The best way for me to sum up Djokovic’s Toronto win was safe. When I use the term, “safe”, it doesn’t necessarily relate to health and physical safety. Safe just means neutral. It’s neither good nor bad. In other words, his win wasn’t anything wow. But it was solid enough, because he was able to win all his matches in straight sets.

**2017 ITALIAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Aljaž Bedene (SLOVENIA) Win 7-6[2] 6-2
2. Round of 16 Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Juan Martín Del Potro (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 6-4
4. Semifinal Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-1 6-0
5. Final Sacsha Zverev (GERMANY) Loss 6-4 6-3

**2017 EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Vasek Pospisil (CANADA) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Donald Young (USA) Win 6-2 7-6[9]
3. Semifinal Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Final Gaël Monfils (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-4

**2018 QUEEN’S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 John Millman (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 16 Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-4 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Adrian Mannarino (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-1
4. Semifinal Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 7-6[5] 6-4
5. Final Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Loss 5-7 7-6[4] 6-3

**2018 SHANGHAI MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-3 7-5
2. Round of 16 Marco Cecchinato (ITALY) Win 6-4 6-0
3. Quarterfinal Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 7-6[1] 6-3
4. Semifinal Sacsha Zverev (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-1
5. Final Borna Ćorić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-4

**2018 ATP FINALS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round Robin Sacsha Zverev (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-1
2. Round Robin Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Win 7-6[7] 6-2
3. Round Robin John Isner (USA) Win 6-4 6-3
4. Semifinal Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-2 6-2
5. Final Sacsha Zverev (GERMANY) Loss 6-4 6-3

**2019 MADRID OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Taylor Fritz (USA) Win 6-4 6-2
2. Round of 16 Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-1 7-6[2]
3. Quarterfinal Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Win WALKOVER
4. Semifinal Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 7-6[2] 7-6[4]
5. Final Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 6-3 6-4

**2019 JAPAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Alexei Popyrin (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 6-2
2. Round of 16 Go Soeda (JAPAN) Win 6-3 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Lucas Pouille (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-2
4. Semifinal David Goffin (BELGIUM) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final John Millman (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-2

**2019 PARIS MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Corentin Moutet (FRANCE) Win 7-6[2] 6-4
2. Round of 16 Kyle Edmund (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-6[7] 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 6-1 6-2
4. Semifinal Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 7-6[5] 6-4
5. Final Denis Shapovalov (CANADA) Win 6-3 6-4

**2022 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Aslan Karatsev (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Félix Auger-Aliassime (CANADA) Win 7-5 7-6[1]
4. Semifinal Casper Ruud (NORWAY) Win 6-4 6-3
5. Final Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 6-0 7-6[5]

**2022 TEL AVIV OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Pablo Andújar (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-3
2. Vasek Pospisil (CANADA) Win 7-6[5[ 6-3
3. Roman Safiullin (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 7-6[3]
4. Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-4

# **RAFAEL NADAL (SPAIN)**

# Nadal was born right-handed but plays left-handed. His baseline game revolves around his heavy topspin groundstrokes, speedy footwork, and persistent court coverage, which makes him a counterpuncher. His athleticism and speed make him an excellent defender because he can construct winning shots from tough positions. He can play fine dropshots because his heavy topspin forces his opponents to the back of the court. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

# **2004 AUCKLAND OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

# Round of 32 Sjeng Schalken (NETHERLANDS) Win 7-6[2] 6-4

# Round of 16 Mario Ančić (CROATIA) Win 7-6[0] 7-6[6]

# Quarterfinal Grégory Carraz (FRANCE) Win 2-1 RETIRED

# Semifinal Jiří Novák (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-3

# Final Dominik Hrbatý (SLOVAKIA) Loss 4-6 6-2 7-5

# **2004 ORANGE WARSAW OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

# Round of 32 Victor Hănescu (ROMANIA) Win 6-4 6-4

# Round of 16 Arnaud Di Pasquale (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-4

# Quarterfinal Franco Squillari (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-4

# Semifinal Félix Mantilla (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-1

# Final José Acasuso (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-4

**2005 MEXICAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Álex Calatrava (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Round of 16 Santiago Ventura Bertomeu (SPAIN) Win 7-6[0] 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Guillermo Cañas (ARGENTINA) Win 7-5 6-3
4. Semifinal Mariano Puerta (ARGENTINA) Win 6-4 6-1
5. Final Albert Montañés (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-0

**2005 BARCELONA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Gilles Müller (LUXEMBOURG) Win 6-2 6-0
2. Round of 16 Dominik Hrbatý (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Agustín Calleri (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 3-0 RETIRED
4. Semifinal Radek Štěpánek (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-5 6-2
5. Final Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPAIN) Win 6-1 7-6[4] 6-3

**2005 SWEDISH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Juan Mónaco (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 6-1
2. Round of 16 Alberto Martín (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Tommy Robredo (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Final Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 2-6 6-2 6-4

**2005 STUTTGART OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Hugo Armando (USA) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Round of 16 Fernando Verdasco (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Tomáš Zíb (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-1
4. Semifinal Jarkko Nieminen (FINLAND) Win 6-2 7-5
5. Final Gastón Gaudio (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-3 6-4

**2005 MADRID OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Victor Hănescu (ROMANIA) Win 7-6[5] 6-3
2. Round of 16 Tommy Robredo (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Radek Štěpánek (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-6[9] 6-4
4. Semifinal Robby Ginepri (USA) Win 7-5 7-6[1]
5. Final Ivan Ljubičić (CROATIA) Win 3-6 2-6 6-3 6-4 7-6

**2007 BARCELONA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Kristof Vliegen (BELGIUM) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Round of 16 Thomas Johansson (SWEDEN) Win 6-1 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Potito Starace (ITALY) Win 6-2 7-5
4. Semifinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-1
5. Final Guillermo Cañas (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-4

**2007 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Juan Martín Del Potro (ARGENTINA) Win 7-5 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 64 Flavio Cipolla (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-1 6-4
3. Round of 32 Albert Montañés (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-3 6-2
4. Round of 16 Lleyton Hewitt (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-1 7-6[5]
5. Quarterfinal Carlos Moyá (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-3 6-0
6. Semifinal Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 7-5 6-4 6-2
7. Final Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-3 4-6 6-3 6-4

**2007 STUTTGART OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Alexander Waske (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-1
2. Round of 16 Philipp Kohlschreiber (GERMANY) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Juan Mónaco (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 6-3
4. Semifinal Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-1 7-5
5. Final Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-4 7-5

**2008 MONTE CARLO MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Mario Ančić (CROATIA) Win 6-0 6-3
2. Round of 16 Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-1
3. Quarterfinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-1 7-5
4. Semifinal Nikolay Davydenko (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) Win 7-5 7-5

**2008 BARCELONA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Potito Starace (ITALY) Win 6-4 6-2
2. Round of 16 Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Juan Ignacio Chela (ARGENTINA) Win 6-4 6-2
4. Semifinal Denis Gremelmayr (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-0
5. Final David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-1 4-6 6-1

**2008 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Thomaz Bellucci (BRAZIL) Win 7-5 6-3 6-1
2. Round of 64 Nicolas Devilder (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-0 6-1
3. Round of 32 Jarkko Nieminen (FINLAND) Win 6-1 6-3 6-1
4. Round of 16 Fernando Verdasco (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-0 6-2
5. Quarterfinal Nicolás Almagro (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-1 6-1
6. Semifinal Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-2 7-6[3]
7. Final Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-1 6-3 6-0

**2009 MONTE CARLO MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

* 1. Round of 32 Juan Ignacio Chela (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 6-3
  2. Round of 16 Nicolás Lapentti (ECUADOR) Win 6-3 6-0
  3. Quarterfinal Ivan Ljubičić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-3
  4. Semifinal Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 7-6[4]
  5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-3 2-6 6-1

**2009 BARCELONA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Fred Gil (PORTUGAL) Win 6-2 6-2
2. Round of 16 Christophe Rochus (BELGIUM) Win 6-2 6-0
3. Quarterfinal David Nalbandian (ARGENTINA) Win WALKOVER
4. Semifinal Nikolay Davydenko (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-2 7-5

**2009 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Andreas Seppi (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-3
2. Round of 16 Robin Söderling (SWEDEN) Win 6-1 6-0
3. Quarterfinal Fernando Verdasco (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Fernando González (CHILE) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 7-6[2] 6-2

**2010 MONTE CARLO MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Thiemo De Bakker (NETHERLANDS) Win 6-1 6-0
2. Round of 16 Michael Berrer (GERMANY) Win 6-0 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-2
4. Semifinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-3
5. Final Fernando Verdasco (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-1

**2010 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Gianni Mina (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-2 6-2
2. Round of 64 Horacio Zeballos (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 6-2 6-3
3. Round of 32 Lleyton Hewitt (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-4 6-3
4. Round of 16 Thomaz Bellucci (BRAZIL) Win 6-2 7-5 6-4
5. Quarterfinal Nicolás Almagro (SPAIN) Win 7-6[2] 7-6[3] 6-4
6. Semifinal Jürgen Melzer (AUSTRIA) Win 6-2 6-3 7-6[6]
7. Final Robin Söderling (SWEDEN) Win 6-4 6-2 6-4

**2010 US OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Teymuraz Gabashvili (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[4] 7-6[4] 6-3
2. Round of 64 Denis Istomin (UZBEKISTAN) Win 6-2 7-6[5] 7-5
3. Round of 32 Gilles Simon (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-4 6-2
4. Round of 16 Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-4 6-4
5. Quarterfinal Fernando Verdasco (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-3 6-4
6. Semifinal Mikhail Youzhny (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-3 6-4
7. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-4 5-7 6-4 6-2

**2011 BARCELONA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Daniel Gimeno Traver (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-1
2. Round of 16 Santiago Giraldo (COLOMBIA) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Gaël Monfils (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Semifinal Ivan Dodig (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-4

**2012 MONTE CARLO MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jarkko Nieminen (FINLAND) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 16 Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Win 7-5 6-1
4. Semifinal Gilles Simon (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-1

**2012 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Florian Mayer (GERMANY) Win 6-1 7-5
2. Round of 16 Marcel Granollers (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 7-5
4. Semifinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 7-6[6] 6-0
5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 7-5 6-3

**2012 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Simone Bolelli (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 64 Denis Istomin (UZBEKISTAN) Win 6-2 6-2 6-0
3. Round of 32 Eduardo Schwank (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 6-3 6-4
4. Round of 16 Juan Mónaco (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 6-0 6-0
5. Quarterfinal Nicolás Almagro (SPAIN) Win 7-6[4] 6-2 6-3
6. Semifinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-2 6-1
7. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-3 2-6 7-5

**2013 CHILE OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Federico Delbonis (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Daniel Gimeno Traver (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-4
3. Semifinal Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Final Horacio Zeballos (ARGENTINA) Loss 6-7[2] 7-6[6] 6-4

**2013 MEXICAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Diego Schwartzman (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 6-0
2. Round of 16 Martín Alund (ARGENTINA) Win 6-0 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Leonardo Mayer (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 7-5
4. Semifinal Nicolás Almagro (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-4
5. Final David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-2

**2014 MADRID OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Juan Mónaco (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 6-0
2. Round of 16 Jarkko Nieminen (FINLAND) Win 6-1 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 6-2
4. Semifinal Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-3
5. Final Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win 2-6 6-4 3-0 RETIRED

**2015 ARGENTINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Facundo Argüello (ARGENTINA) Win 6-4 6-0
2. Quarterfinal Federico Delbonis (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Semifinal Carlos Berlocq (ARGENTINA) Win 7-6[7] 6-2
4. Final Juan Mónaco (ARGENTINA) Win 6-4 6-1

**2015 MADRID OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Steve Johnson (USA) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 16 Simone Bolelli (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Semifinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-6[3] 6-1
5. Final Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Loss 6-3 6-2

**2017 MEXICAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP ] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Mischa Zverev (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 16 Paolo Lorenzi (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Yoshihito Nishioka (JAPAN) Win 7-6[2] 6-3
4. Semifinal Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Final Sam Querrey (USA) Loss 6-3 7-6[3]

**2017 BARCELONA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Rogério Dutra Silva (BRAZIL) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Round of 16 Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-3 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Hyeon Chung (SOUTH KOREA) Win 7-6[1] 6-2
4. Semifinal Horacio Zeballos (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-4 6-1

**2017 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Benoît Paire (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-4 6-1
2. Round of 64 Robin Haase (NETHERLANDS) Win 6-1 6-4 6-3
3. Round of 32 Nikoloz Basilashvili (GEORGIA) Win 6-0 6-1 6-0
4. Round of 16 Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-2 6-2
5. Quarterfinal Pablo Carreño Busta (SPAIN) Win 6-2 2-0 RETIRED
6. Semifinal Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-3 6-4 6-0
7. Final Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-3 6-2 6-1

**2018 MONTE CARLO MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Aljaž Bedene (SLOVENIA) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Round of 16 Karen Khachanov (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-0 6-2
4. Semifinal Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-4 6-1
5. Final Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win 6-3 6-2

**2019 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 James Duckworth (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 6-3 7-5
2. Round of 64 Matthew Ebden (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-2 6-2
3. Round of 32 Alex De Minaur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 6-2 6-4
4. Round of 16 Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-0 6-1 7-6[4]
5. Quarterfinal Frances Tiafoe (USA) Win 6-3 6-4 6-2
6. Semifinal Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 6-2 6-4 6-0
7. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Loss 6-3 6-2 6-3

The Australian Open is held annually at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia. The tournament is the first of the four Grand Slam tennis events held each year before the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. It was first held in 1905 and became one of the biggest sporting events in the Southern Hemisphere. It is nicknamed “The Happy Slam” because it is the highest attended Grand Slam event. It is also the first Grand Slam tournament to feature indoor play during wet weather or extreme heat on its three primary courts of Rod Laver Arena, John Cain Arena, and the refurbished Margaret Court Arena with retractable roofs. Before 1988, it was played on grass courts. But since then, three types of hardcourt surfaces are used – green-colored Rebound Ace up to 2007, blue Plexicushion from 2008 to 2019, and blue GreenSet since 2020.

Nadal’s run at the 2019 Australian Open was my favorite. His level throughout the entire tournament was superb. He became the second men’s singles player to win all 18 sets they played in six matches at Melbourne Park [Djokovic first accomplished this feat in 2008]. I chose to write about Nadal’s semifinal win against Tsitsipas. But one unique detail I’ll do is that I’ll highlight both Tsitsipas’s and Federer’s playing styles together in this subheading.

Federer is an all-court player. He primarily plays from the baseline but is also comfortable at the net. He has a powerful, accurate smash and effectively performs rare elements of his game, such as the backhand smash and skyhook, half-volley, jump smash [slam dunk] and the SABR [Sneak Attack by Roger] return, which is a half-volley attack on his opponent’s second serve. He has efficient movement and footwork, which lets him hit inside forehands. The variety with his forehand lets him hit with either topspin or pace. He uses a one-handed backhand with slice to deliver passing shots. Despite his strengths, his biggest weakness is that his one-handed backhand causes him to go for his shots too much, too soon. He also has poor records in break point opportunity conversions. Like Federer, Tsitsipas is also a baseline player with an all-court playing style. He can use his forehand to finish points off his first serve. But he also has several weaknesses in his game. His one-handed backhand causes him to go for winners too quickly, and he struggles to return serve against players with kick serves on their two-handed backhands.

When Tsitsipas defeated Federer in a fourth round four-setter, he saved all 12 break points that he faced. But when Tsitsipas lost to Nadal in the semifinals in straight sets, his stats took a hard hit. Based on his win against Federer, Tsitsipas was expected to push Nadal to four, if not five, sets. But several people did point out that Tsitsipas’s game matched up better with Federer’s than Nadal’s. I knew that if multiple people said the same thing about how Tsitsipas’s game matches up better with Federer’s than Nadal’s, then there had to be some truth in their viewpoints. But I also realized that this was the perfect time for me to collect the data of Tsitsipas’s match stats from his win against Federer and his loss to Nadal to uncover the truth. Then, I organized those stats into two separate tables. That way, I could get a clear idea on Tsitsipas’s contrasting forms in these two matches.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Tsitsipas | Federer |
| **1st SERVE %** | 60% [112 of 188] | 67% [105 of 156] |
| **ACES** | 20 | 12 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 1 | 0 |
| **WINNERS** | 62 | 61 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 36 | 55 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 78% [87 of 112] | 79% [83 of 105] |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 64% [49 of 76] | 61% [31 of 51] |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 33% [1 of 3] | 0% [0 of 12] |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Tsitsipas | Nadal |
| **1st SERVE %** | 69% [45 of 65] | 66% [40 of 61] |
| **ACES** | 5 | 5 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 2 | 0 |
| **WINNERS** | 17 | 30 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 22 | 14 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 64% [29 of 45] | 85% [34 of 40] |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 30% [6 of 20] | 71% [15 of 21] |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 0% [0 of 1] | 55% [6 of 11] |

When Tsitsipas defeated Federer in the fourth round, the lone break of serve in the match came in the 12th game of the third set. But when Tsitsipas lost to Nadal in the semifinals, the stats told a different story. Nadal got off to a quick start with two breaks in the third and seventh games of the first set. The second set featured the lone break in the ninth game. This was followed by three more breaks in the first, third, and fifth games of the third set. Tsitsipas did have a higher first serve percentage and matched Nadal with the same number of aces. But his first serve points won, second serve points won, break point conversions, and winners-unforced errors ratio all took a hard hit. No matter how hard Tsitsipas tried to mix up his game, Nadal was simply stronger.

**2019 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Round of 16 Nikoloz Basilashvili (GEORGIA) Win 6-1 6-0
3. Quarterfinal Fernando Verdasco (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-0
4. Semifinal Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-0 4-6 6-1

**2020 MEXICAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Pablo Andújar (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Miomir Kecmanović (SERBIA) Win 6-2 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Soon-Woo Kwan (SOUTH KOREA) Win 6-2 6-1
4. Semifinal Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Taylor Fritz (USA) Win 6-3 6-2

**2020 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Egor Gerasimov (BELARUS) Win 6-4 6-4 6-2
2. Round of 64 Mackie McDonald (USA) Win 6-1 6-0 6-3
3. Round of 32 Stefano Travaglia (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-4 6-0
4. Round of 16 Sebastian Korda (USA) Win 6-1 6-1 6-2
5. Quarterfinal Jannik Sinner (ITALY) Win 7-6[4] 6-4 6-1
6. Semifinal Diego Schwartzman (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-3 7-6[0]
7. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-0 6-2 7-5

**2022 MELBOURNE SUMMER SET [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Ričardas Berankis (LITHUANIA) Win 6-2 7-5
2. Quarterfinal Tallon Griekspoor (NETHERLANDS) Win WALKOVER
3. Semifinal Emil Ruusuvuori (FINLAND) Win 6-4 7-5
4. Final Maxime Cressy (USA) Win 7-6[6] 6-3

**2022 MEXICAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Denis Kudla (USA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Stefan Kozlov (USA) Win 6-0 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Tommy Paul (USA) Win 6-0 7-6[5]
4. Semifinal Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Final Cameron Norrie (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-4 6-4

# **KIM CLIJSTERS (BELGIUM)**

Clijsters is an all-court player. She uses both offensive and defensive playing styles. She can extend points with her signature shot, a stretched-out wide forehand. She is one of the best returners of serve because she can take control of the point immediately to put herself on offense. She can hit swinging volleys on both the forehand and backhand sides with her solid groundstroke technique. This helped her reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2001 LUXEMBOURG OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Rita Grande (ITALY) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Quarterfinals Anna Kournikova (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 7-6[2]
3. Semifinals Amanda Coetzer (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Final Lisa Raymond (USA) Win 6-2 6-2

**2002 LUXEMBOURG OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Magüi Serna (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Quarterfinals Laura Granville (USA) Win 6-0 6-4
3. Semifinals Virginie Razzano (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-0
4. Final Magdalena Maleeva (BULGARIA) Win 6-1 6-2

**2002 WTA FINALS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Chanda Rubin (USA) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Quarterfinals Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Semifinals Venus Williams (USA) Win 5-0 RETIRED
4. Final Serena Williams (USA) Win 7-5 6-3

**2003 SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Patty Schnyder (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Chanda Rubin (USA) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Semifinal Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Final Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-4 6-3

**2003 STATE FARM WOMEN’S TENNIS CLASSIC [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Cara Black (ZIMBABWE) Win 6-2 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Laura Granville (USA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Semifinal Meghann Shaughnessy (USA) Win 6-3 7-5
4. Final Ai Sugiyama (JAPAN) Loss 3-6 7-5 6-4

**2003 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Virginia Ruano Pascual (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-0
2. Round of 16 Cara Black (ZIMBABWE) Win 6-0 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Anastasia Myskina (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Semifinal Ai Sugiyama (JAPAN) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Amélie Mauresmo (FRANCE) Win 3-6 7-6[3] 6-0

**2003 LIBEMA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Cara Black (ZIMBABWE) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Tina Pisnik (SLOVENIA) Win 7-6[7-4] 7-6[7-4]
3. Semifinal Barbara Rittner (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-1
4. Final Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Win 6-7[4] 3-0 RETIRED

**2003 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPEN [RUNNER-UP RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Virginia Ruano Pascual (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-0
2. Round of 16 Marion Bartoli (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Lisa Raymond (USA) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Semifinal Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Final Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Loss 3-6 6-2 6-3

**2003 LUXEMBOURG OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Claudine Schaul (LUXEMBOURG) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Émilie Loit (FRANCE) Win 6-4 7-5
3. Semifinal Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-3
4. Final Chanda Rubin (USA) Win 6-2 7-5

**2004 DIAMOND GAMES [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Arantxa Parra Santonja (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Magdalena Maleeva (BULGARIA) Win 7-6[2] 6-2
3. Semifinal Myriam Casanova (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-1 6-2
4. Final Silvia Farina Elia (ITALY) Win 6-3 6-0

**2005 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Amy Frazier (USA) Win 6-2 6-3
2. Round of 32 Nathalie Dechy (FRANCE) Win 6-0 6-2
3. Round of 16 Anastasia Myskina (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Quarterfinal Elena Dementieva (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-1
5. Semifinal Amélie Mauresmo (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-0
6. Final Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 7-5

**2005 STANFORD CLASSIC [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Ai Sugiyama (JAPAN) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Semifinal Anna-Lena Grönefeld (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-0
4. Final Venus Williams (USA) Win 7-5 6-0

**2005 LA CHAMPIONSHIPS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Karolina Šprem (CROATIA) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 16 Dinara Safina (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Nadia Petrova (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-2
4. Semifinal Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-4 6-1

**2005 CANADIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Virginie Razzano (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-0
2. Round of 16 Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win WALKOVER
3. Quarterfinal Flavia Pennetta (ITALY) Win 6-0 6-1
4. Semifinal Anastasia Myskina (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Win 7-5 6-1

**2005 LUXEMBOURG OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Klára Koukalová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-0
2. Quarterfinal Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 6-4 7-5
3. Semifinal Nathalie Dechy (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-1
4. Final Anna-Lena Grönefeld (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-4

**2005 GAZ DE FRANCE STARS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Ekaterina Bychkova (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Round of 16 Karolina Šprem (CROATIA) Win 6-2 6-0
3. QuarterfinalJulia Schruff (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Semifinal Dinara Safina (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-1
5. Final Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-3

**2007 DIAMOND GAMES [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Olga Puchkova (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Semifinal Tatiana Golovin (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-3
4. Final Amélie Mauresmo (FRANCE) Win 6-4 7-6[4]

**2010 CINCINNATI MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Dinara Safina (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-2
2. Round of 16 Christina McHale (USA) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Flavia Pennetta (ITALY) Win 7-6[5] 6-4
4. Semifinal Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 2-1 RETIRED
5. Final Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 2-6 7-6[4] 6-2

**2011 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Dinara Safina (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-0
2. Round of 64 Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Round of 32 Alizé Cornet (FRANCE) Win 7-6[3] 6-3
4. Round of 16 Katya Makarova (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[3] 6-2
5. Quarterfinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-3 7-6[4]
6. Semifinal Vera Zvonareva (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-3
7. Final Na Li (CHINA) Win 3-6 6-3 6-3

# **MARIA SHARAPOVA (RUSSIA)**

Sharapova is an aggressive baseliner. Her game revolves around her powerful groundstrokes. She can hit her shots with speed, power, depth, and sharp angles. She can also add both a drop shot and a sliced backhand to her style. She can attack the net to hit delicate volleys with increased symmetry. Her height lets her possess terrific speed, footwork, and court coverage. This helped her reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2003 JAPAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Kim Jin-Hee (SOUTH KOREA) Win 6-2 6-0
2. Round of 16 Akiko Morigami (JAPAN) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Claudine Schaul (LUXEMBOURG) Win 7-5 7-6[1]
4. Semifinal Zheng Jie (CHINA) Win 6-3 7-5
5. Final Anikó Kapros (HUNGARY) Win 2-6 6-2 7-6[5]

**2004 KOREA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Emmanuelle Gagliardi (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Round of 16 Miho Saeki (JAPAN) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-2 6-1
4. Semifinal Anne Kremer (LUXEMBOURG) Win 6-2 6-0
5. Final Marta Domachowska (POLAND) Win 6-1 6-1

**2005 QATAR OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Gisela Dulko (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Marion Bartoli (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Semifinal Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-2 6-4
4. Final Alicia Molik (AUSTRALIA) Win 4-6 6-1 6-4

**2006 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Jamea Jackson (USA) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 32 Lisa Raymond (USA) Win 6-4 6-0
3. Round of 16 Shahar Pe’er (ISRAEL) Win 7-6[2] 6-1
4. Quarterfinal Anna-Lena Grönefeld (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-3
5. Semifinal Martina Hingis (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-6 6-3
6. Final Elena Dementieva (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-2

**2006 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Vasilisa Bardina (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-1
2. Round of 16 Vera Zvonareva (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Mary Pierce (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Semifinal Patty Schnyder (SWITZERLAND) Win 7-5 6-4
5. Final Kim Clijsters (BELGIUM) Win 7-5 7-5

**2007 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Tamarine Tanasugarn (THAILAND) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Round of 16 Tatiana Golovin (FRANCE) Win 6-0 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Sania Mirza (INDIA) Win 6-2 6-1
4. Semifinal Anna Chakvetadze (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Patty Schnyder (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-2 3-6 6-0

**2008 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Jelena Kostanić Tošić (CROATIA) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 64 Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Round of 32 Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-0
4. Round of 16 Elena Dementieva (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-0
5. Quarterfinal Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Win 6-4 6-0
6. Semifinal Jelena Janković (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-1
7. Final Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 7-5 6-3

**2010 MEMPHIS OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Shenay Perry (USA) Win 6-0 6-2
2. Round of 16 Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Elena Baltacha (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 7-5
4. Semifinal Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 6-3
5. Final Sofia Arvidsson (SWEDEN) Win 6-2 6-1

**2011 WIMBLEDON [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Anna Chakvetadze (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 64 Laura Robson (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-6[4] 6-3
3. Round of 32 Klára Koukalová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Round of 16 Shuai Peng (CHINA) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Quarterfinal Dominika Cibulková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-1 6-1
6. Semifinal Sabine Lisicki (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-3
7. Final Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Loss 6-3 6-4

**2013 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 32 Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-3
3. Round of 16 Lara Arruabarrena (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-0
4. Quarterfinal Sara Errani (ITALY) Win 7-6[6] 6-2
5. Semifinal Maria Kirilenko (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-3
6. Final Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-2 6-2

**2013 MIAMI OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Genie Bouchard (CANADA) Win 6-2 6-0
2. Round of 32 Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Round of 16 Klára Koukalová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Quarterfinal Sara Errani (ITALY) Win 7-5 7-5
5. Semifinal Jelena Janković (SERBIA) Win 6-2 6-1
6. Final Serena Williams (USA) Loss 4-6 6-3 6-0

**2013 MADRID OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Alexandra Dulgheru (ROMANIA) Win 7-5 6-2
2. Round of 32 Christina McHale (USA) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Round of 16 Sabine Lisicki (GERMANY) Win 6-2 7-5
4. Quarterfinal Kaia Kanepi (ESTONIA) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Semifinal Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-1
6. Final Serena Williams (USA) Loss 6-1 6-4

**2014 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Kaia Kanepi (ESTONIA) Win 6-4 6-1
2. Round of 32 Elina Svitolina (UKRAINE) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Round of 16 Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN) Win 6-1 7-6[3]
4. Quarterfinal Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-4
5. Semifinal Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 6-0 6-4
6. Final Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 4-6 6-2 6-3

**2015 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Slava Shvedova (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Semifinal Elina Svitolina (UKRAINE) Win 6-1 6-3
4. Final Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 6-7[4-7] 6-3 6-3

**2015 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jarmila Wolfe (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-2 3-1 RETIRED
2. Round of 16 Bojana Jovanovski Petrović (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Semifinal Dasha Saville (AUSTRALIA) Win 7-5 6-3
5. Final Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN) Win 4-6 7-5 6-1

# **ANDY MURRAY (GREAT BRITAIN)**

Murray plays an all-court game with defensive baseline playing style. His strengths are his groundstrokes with low error rate, the ability to anticipate and react, and his transition from defense to offence with speed, which let him hit winners from shifty positions. His two-handed backhand possesses dynamic stroke execution, while he primarily uses his passive forehand and sliced backhand to let his opponents play defense before he plays offense. His tactics involve passive exchanges from the baseline. He can inject unexpected pace into his groundstrokes to surprise his opponents. His return game lets him block back fast serves with his reach and ability of anticipation. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2008 ST. PETERSBURG OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Viktor Troicki (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Round of 16 Ernests Gulbis (LATVIA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Janko Tipsarević (SERBIA) Win 7-6[3] 7-5
4. Semifinal Fernando Verdasco (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-3
5. Final Andrey Golubev (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-1 6-1

**2009 QUEEN’S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Andreas Seppi (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Round of 16 Guillermo García López (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Mardy Fish (USA) Win 7-5 6-3
4. Semifinal Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final James Blake (USA) Win 7-5 6-4

**2009 CANADIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-2
2. Round of 16 Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Nikolay Davydenko (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-4
4. Semifinal Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRANCE) Win 6-4 7-6[8]
5. Final Juan Martín Del Potro (ARGENTINA) Win 6-7[4] 7-6[3] 6-1

**2011 CINCINNATI MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 David Nalbandian (ARGENTINA) Win 6-4 6-1
2. Round of 16 Alex Bogomolov (USA) Win 6-2 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Gilles Simon (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Mardy Fish (USA) Win 6-3 7-6[8]
5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-4 3-0 RETIRED

**2014 VIENNA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Vasek Pospisil (CANADA) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Jan-Lennard Struff (GERMANY) Win 6-2 7-5
3. Semifinal Viktor Troicki (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-3
4. Final David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 5-7 6-2 7-5

**2015 CANADIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Tommy Robredo (SPAIN) Win 6-4 7-5
2. Round of 16 Gilles Müller (LUXEMBOURG) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Semifinal Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-4 4-6 6-3

**2016 ITALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Round of 16 Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-0 6-4
3. Quarterfinal David Goffin (BELGIUM) Win 6-1 7-5
4. Semifinal Lucas Pouille (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-1
5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-3 6-3

**2016 CINCINNATI MASTERS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Juan Mónaco (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Bernard Tomic (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Semifinal Milos Raonic (CANADA) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Final Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Loss 6-4 7-5

**2016 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Andreas Seppi (ITALY) Win 6-2 7-5
2. Round of 16 Andrey Kuznetsov (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Kyle Edmund (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-6[9] 6-2
4. Semifinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-3
5. Final Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-4 7-6[2]

**2017 QATAR OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-0 7-6[2]
2. Round of 16 Gerald Melzer (AUSTRIA) Win 7-6[6] 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Nicolás Almagro (SPAIN) Win 7-6[4] 7-5
4. Semifinal Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Loss 6-3 5-7 6-4

**2022 STUTTGART OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Christopher O'Connell (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 16 Alexander Bublik (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-3 7-6[4]
3. Quarterfinal Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 7-6[4] 6-3
4. Semifinal Nick Kyrgios (AUSTRALIA) Win 7-6[5] 6-2
5. Final Matteo Berrettini (ITALY) Loss 6-4 5-7 6-3

# **ASHLEIGH BARTY (AUSTRALIA)**

Barty has an all-court game with a crafty playing style. She can use her powerful forehand to create sharp angles on her cross-court shots. Her backhand slice is a major weapon in both offense and defense. She can hit short slices to bring her opponents up to the net or hit sharply angled ones to pull them wide. She plays old-school tennis that mixes both offense and defense equally together. This helped her win three titles without dropping a set:

**2019 BIRMINGHAM CLASSIC [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Donna Vekić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Round of 16 Jennifer Brady (USA) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-4 6-3
4. Semifinal Barbora Strýcová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 6-4
5. Final Julia Görges (GERMANY) Win 6-3 7-5

**2021 CINCINNATI MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Heather Watson (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-4 7-6[3]
2. Round of 16 Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-0 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Barbora Krejčíková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-4
4. Semifinal Angelique Kerber (GERMANY) Win 6-2 7-5
5. Final Jil Teichmann (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-3 6-1

The Cincinnati Masters is the oldest tennis tournament in the US. It is the second largest summer tennis event in the US after the US Open. The tournament started in 1899 as the Cincinnati Open and was renamed in 1901 to Tri-State Tennis Tournament until 1969. The original tournament was held at the Avondale Athletic Club. The first tournament in 1899 was played on clay and the event was mostly played on clay until 1979 when it switched to hardcourts.

After Barty reached the final without dropping a set, she awaited the winner of the second semifinal match between Teichmann (SWITZERLAND) and Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC). Teichmann upset Naomi Osaka (JAPAN) in a three-setter in the Round of 16, while Plíšková reached the semifinals without dropping a set. The oddsmakers favored Plíšková to defeat Teichmann in straight sets. Had that prediction come true, I wouldn’t have been able to write about this tournament at all. But once the second semifinal between Plíšková and Teichmann kicked off, Teichmann broke Plíšková twice back-to-back in the fifth and seventh games and served out the first set in the eighth game. This was followed by three extra breaks in the seventh, eighth, and ninth games of the second set. I was curious to know how Barty would handle her nerves in the final, if Plíšková did beat Teichmann in three sets. But I realized that it wouldn’t have mattered who the opponent was. Whether Plíšková came back to win in three sets or Teichmann won in straight sets or three sets, it didn’t matter. Either way, the fatigue factor would’ve kicked in quickly for either one of these players. Eventually, that is exactly what happened to Teichmann, and Barty took home the title in straight sets.

**2022 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Lesia Tsurenko (UKRAINE) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Round of 64 Lucia Bronzetti (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Round of 32 Camila Giorgi (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Round of 16 Amanda Anisimova (USA) Win 6-4 6-3
5. Quarterfinal Jessica Pegula (USA) Win 6-2 6-0
6. Semifinal Madison Keys (USA) Win 6-1 6-3
7. Final Danielle Collins (USA) Win 6-3 7-6[2]

After Barty won her first WTA title in Malaysia in 2017, she slowly built her way up in 2018 with two titles in Nottingham and Zhuhai. Her 2019 season saw her win five titles across four different surfaces in Miami, Roland Garros, Birmingham, and the WTA Finals as the number one player in the world. She carried this success into 2020 with her first title on home soil in Adelaide. After she reached the semifinals in her next two tournaments, she skipped the rest of the 2020 season because of her concerns related to travelling during the pandemic. But she came back with a bang in 2021. She won a second title on home soil at the Yarra Valley Classic. This was followed by four different titles on three different surfaces in Miami, Stuttgart, Wimbledon, and Cincinnati. After she reached the third round at the US Open, she took the rest of the season off to get ready for the 2022 Australian Open once she secured the year-end world number one ranking. After Barty won a third title on home soil at the Adelaide International in 2022, she came into the 2022 Australian Open under pressure, because her world number one ranking was in contention with two other players and she was dealt a tough draw. But her tough draw became easy after her toughest opponents got sent packing their bags in the early rounds. Now, I will tell my readers – it is extremely rare that history can be repeated in this way. It is hard to believe it. But I saw this firsthand myself before at the 2014 US Open when Serena won the title without dropping a set, because she also dealt with this same exact situation. As a result, Barty joined Sharapova and Serena as the only three women to successfully win the Australian Open without dropping a set. Excluding these three ladies, what I’ve seen with the currently active women’s singles Grand Slam champions is a huge amount of confidence and very little ability. But these three ladies are complete opposites. They always believe that there is room for improvement and never look too far ahead of the season. While nobody has come close to matching Serena’s legacy with keeping losses low [Serena had no more than 12 losses in a single season {the 12 losses came in her 2009 season}], Sharapova and Barty both showed that they are the best ones, who can stay on top of the game. Another unbelievable, exquisite quality that Barty shows on court during her matches is her composure. No matter what the result is with the score, she shows no signs of panic, frustration, or anger. Even if she loses a point, all she does is calmly walk away and move forward onto the next point, as if nothing happened. She may look subdued, but she is an absolute gift to the umpteen millions of global tennis fans worldwide who love to watch this sport!

# **Juan Martín del Potro (ARGENTINA)**

Del Potro is an offensive baseliner with a powerful serve and deep, flat, topspin groundstrokes. He can push his opponents deep with his heavy groundstrokes and blast past them with winners. His forehand is his strongest weapon. He can balance the pace of his two-handed backhand with a one-handed slice to move his opponents out of position and slow down the rallies to let him set up offensive shots with his forehand. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2008 AUSTRIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Josselin Ouanna (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Round of 16 Sergio Roitman (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Nicolas Devilder (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Semifinal Victor Hănescu (ROMANIA) Win 6-3 7-6[5]
5. Final Jürgen Melzer (AUSTRIA) Win 6-2 6-1

**2011 DELRAY BEACH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Ričardas Berankis (LITHUANIA) Win 6-4 6-1
2. Round of 16 Teymuraz Gabashvili (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Semifinal Mardy Fish (USA) Win 6-1 7-5
5. Final Janko Tipsarević (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-4

**2012 ESTORIL OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Rui Machado (PORTUGAL) Win 6-1 6-0
2. Quarterfinal Albert Montañés (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Semifinal Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Win 7-6[2] 6-4
4. Final Richard Gasquet (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-2

**2013 CITI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Ryan Harrison (USA) Win 6-1 7-5
2. Round of 16 Bernard Tomic (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 7-6[0] 6-3
4. Semifinal Tommy Haas (GERMANY) Win 7-6[4] 6-3
5. Final John Isner (USA) Win 3-6 6-1 6-2

**2016 STOCKHOLM OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 John Isner (USA) Win 6-4 7-6[6]
2. Round of 16 Nicolás Almagro (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Ivo Karlović (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Semifinal Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-4 7-5
5. Final Jack Sock (USA) Win 7-5 6-1

**2018 AUCKLAND OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Denis Shapovalov (CANADA) Win 6-2 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Karen Khachanov (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[4] 6-3
3. Semifinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Final Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Loss 6-1 4-6 7-5

**2018 LOS CABOS OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Marcos Giron (USA) Win 7-5 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Egor Gerasimov (BELARUS) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Semifinal Damir Džumhur (BOSNIA) Win 6-3 7-6[6]
4. Final Fabio Fognini (ITALY) Loss 6-4 6-2

**2018 CHINA OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Albert Ramos Viñolas (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-2
2. Round of 16 Karen Khachanov (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 7-6[4]
3. Quarterfinal Filip Krajinović (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-0
4. Semifinal Fabio Fognini (ITALY) Win WALKOVER
5. Final Nikoloz Basilashvili (GEORGIA) Loss 6-4 6-4

# **DANIIL MEDVEDEV (RUSSIA)**

Medvedev is a counterpuncher. His height enables him to possess a powerful first serve. His groundstrokes are hit long and flat. He has superb court sense to move the ball around and change the pace of the rally. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2019 WASHINGTON OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Bjorn Fratangelo (USA) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Round of 16 Frances Tiafoe (USA) Win 6-2 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Win 6-4 7-6[7]
4. Semifinal Peter Gojowczyk (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-2
5. Final Nick Kyrgios (AUSTRALIA) Loss 7-6[6] 7-6[4]

**2019 CANADIAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Kyle Edmund (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-3 6-0
2. Round of 16 Cristian Garín (CHILE) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-3 6-1
4. Semifinal Karen Khachanov (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 7-6[6]
5. Final Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Loss 6-3 6-0

**2019 ST. PETERSBURG OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Evgeny Donskoy (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Andrey Rublev (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 7-5
3. Semifinal Egor Gerasimov (BELARUS) Win 7-5 7-5
4. Final Borna Ćorić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-1

**2019 SHANGHAI ROLEX MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Cameron Norrie (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Round of 16 Vasek Pospisil (CANADA) Win 7-6[4] 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Fabio Fognini (ITALY) Win 6-3 7-6[4]
4. Semifinal Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 7-6[5] 7-5
5. Final Sascha Zverev (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-1

**2021 OPEN 13 PROVENCE [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Egor Gerasimov (BELARUS) Win 6-2 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Jannik Sinner (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Semifinal Matthew Ebden (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 3-0 RETIRED
4. Final Pierre-Hugues Herbert (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-7[4] 6-4

**2022 LIBEMA OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Gilles Simon (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Ilya Ivashka (BELARUS) Win 7-6[8] 6-4
3. Semifinal Adrian Mannarino (FRANCE) Win 7-5 7-5
4. Final Tim Van Rijthoven (NETHERLANDS) Loss 6-4 6-1

**2022 HALLE OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 David Goffin (BELGIUM) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Ilya Ivashka (BELARUS) Win 7-6[4] 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-4
4. Semifinal Oscar Otte (GERMANY) Win 7-6[3] 6-3
5. Final Hubert Hurkacz (POLAND) Loss 6-1 6-4

**2022 LOS CABOS OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Rinky Hijikata (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Ricardis Berankis (LITHUANIA) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Semifinal Miomir Kecmanović (SERBIA) Win 7-6[0] 6-1
4. Final Cameron Norrie (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-5 6-0

**2022 VIENNA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Nikoloz Basilashvili (GEORGIA) Win 6-2 6-2
2. Round of 16 Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Jannik Sinner (ITALY) Win 6-4 6-2
4. Semifinal Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-4 6-2
5. Final Denis Shapovalov (CANADA) Win 4-6 6-3 6-2

**2023 DUBAI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Matteo Arnaldi (ITALY) Win 6-4 6-2
2. Round of 16 Alexander Bublik (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Borna Ćorić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Semifinal Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-4
5. Final Andrey Rublev (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-2

# **SACSHA ZVEREV (GERMANY)**

Zverev is a baseline player. He aims to hit powerful groundstrokes for winners to wear down his opponent. His height adds to his reach and gives him the ability to get more balls back in play. He can create power with both his backhand and forehand. His height lets him create big serves at sharp angles. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2018 MADRID OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Evgeny Donskoy (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 7-5
2. Round of 16 Leonardo Mayer (ARGENTINA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Quarterfinal John Isner (USA) Win 6-4 7-5
4. Semifinal Denis Shapovalov (CANADA) Win 6-4 6-1
5. Final Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-4 6-4

**2019 MEXICAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Alexei Popyrin (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Round of 16 David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 7-6[0] 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Alex De Minaur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Semifinal Cameron Norrie (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-6[0] 6-3
5. Final Nick Kyrgios (AUSTRALIA) Loss 6-3 6-4

**2021 MEXICAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Carlos Alcaraz (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Round of 16 Laslo Đere (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Casper Ruud (NORWAY) Win WALKOVER
4. Semifinal Dominik Koepfer (GERMANY) Win 6-4 7-6[5]
5. Final Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 6-4 7-6[3]

**2021 MADRID OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Kei Nishikori (JAPAN) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Daniel Evans (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-3 7-6[3]
3. Quarterfinal Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Semifinal Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Matteo Berrettini (ITALY) Win 6-7[8] 6-4 6-3

**2022 OPEN SUD DE FRANCE [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Mackie McDonald (USA) Win 6-2 7-6[5]
2. Quarterfinal Adrian Mannarino (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-0
3. Semifinal Mikael Ymer (SWEDEN) Win 6-1 6-3
4. Final Alexander Bublik (KAZAKHSTAN) Loss 6-4 6-3

# **Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC)**

Kvitová has quick, well-placed serves. As a lefty, she executes her shots well by serving wide away from her opponent on the advantage-side of the court to her opponent’s backhand. Then, she comes forward to finish off the point with a winner down-the-line. She also possesses a notable amount of variety in her game. Her height lets her make up for speed by playing close to the baseline. This helped her reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2009 LINZ OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Andrea Petkovic (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Round of 16 Iveta Benešová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-4
4. Semifinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Yanina Wickmayer (BELGIUM) Loss 6-3 6-4

**2013 DUBAI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 16 Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 7-5 7-6[1]
3. Quarterfinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-2 6-4
4. Semifinal Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Sara Errani (ITALY) Win 6-2 1-6 6-1

**2013 KATOWICE OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Misaki Doi (JAPAN) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Round of 16 Mandy Minella (LUXEMBOURG) Win 7-5 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Petra Martić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Semifinal Alexandra Cadanțu (ROMANIA) Win 6-0 6-4
5. Final Roberta Vinci (ITALY) Loss 7-6[2] 6-1

**2014 CONNECTICUT OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Katya Makarova (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Barbora Strýcová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-4 6-1
3. Semifinal Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-1
4. Final Magdaléna Rybáriková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-4 6-2

**2016 WTA ELITE TROPHY [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Group Stage Barbora Strýcová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Group Stage Roberta Vinci (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Semifinal Shuai Zhang (CHINA) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Final Elina Svitolina (UKRAINE) Win 6-4 6-2

**2017 BIRMINGHAM CLASSIC [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Tereza Smitková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-3
2. Round of 16 Naomi Broady (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Kristina Mladenovic (FRANCE) Win 6-4 7-6[5]
4. Semifinal Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 1-0 RETIRED
5. Final Ashleigh Barty (AUSTRALIA) Win 4-6 6-3 6-2

**2018 PRAGUE OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Tereza Smitková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Round of 16 Natalia Vikhlyantseva (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Kateřina Siniaková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Shuai Zhang (CHINA) Win 7-6[6] 6-0
5. Final Mihaela Buzărnescu (ROMANIA) Win 4-6 6-2 6-3

**2018 BIRMINGHAM CLASSIC [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jo Konta (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Round of 16 Dasha Saville (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Julia Görges (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-4
4. Semifinal Mihaela Buzărnescu (ROMANIA) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Magdaléna Rybáriková (SLOVAKIA) Win 4-6 6-1 6-2

**2019 SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Aryna Sabalenka (BELARUS) Win 6-1 7-5
2. Round of 16 Su-Wei Hsieh (CHINESE TAIPEI) Win 7-6[2] 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Angelique Kerber (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-1
4. Semifinal Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BELARUS) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Final Ashleigh Barty (AUSTRALIA) Win 1-6 7-5 7-6[3]

**2019 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Magdaléna Rybáriková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 64 Irina-Camelia Begu (ROMANIA) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Round of 32 Belinda Bencic (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-1 6-4
4. Round of 16 Amanda Anisimova (USA) Win 6-2 6-1
5. Quarterfinal Ashleigh Barty (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 6-4
6. Semifinal Danielle Collins (USA) Win 7-6[2] 6-0
7. Final Naomi Osaka (JAPAN) Loss 7-6[2] 5-7 6-4

Osaka is a baseline player. She likes to control the game from the back court with her forehand. Her game revolves around her serve. She uses her forehand as an offensive weapon to control the rallies. Her backhand is a set-up shot for her forehand. I chose to write about the title match between Kvitová and Osaka. Whoever took the title home would replace Halep as the world number one. Halep was the reigning world number one, 2018 Australian Open finalist and 2018 French Open champion. Halep was the pick to defeat Serena in the fourth round of the 2019 Australian Open. But Serena sent Halep packing her bags and as a result, the American legend kicked the Romanian off the top spot permanently for good. When Kvitová and Osaka faced off in the title match, all 12 games of the first set went on serve, then Osaka won the first-set tiebreak with a double minibreak. In the second set, Kvitová broke in the second, 10th, and 12th games, while Osaka broke in the third and fifth games. Then, Osaka earned the lone break of the third set in the third game.

**2023 BERLIN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Round of 16 Nadia Podoroska (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Caroline Garcia (FRANCE) Win 6-4 7-6[3]
4. Semifinal Ekaterina Alexandrova (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Donna Vekić (CROATIA) Win 6-2 7-6[6]

# **AGA Radwańska (POLAND)**

Radwańska’s game is mixed with variety, mobility, and anticipation of her opponent’s actions. She uses clever shot placement to construct rallies by either opening the court up for a winner or encouraging her opponents to hit a lost return. Her strengths are a mixture of slices and lobs and hitting the ball at various angles. This helped her win her first junior Grand Slam title and reach multiple senior WTA finals, all without dropping a set:

**2006 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Valeria Pulido (MEXICO) Win 6-0 6-4
2. Round of 32 Maya Gaverova (RUSSIA) Win 2-0 RETIRED
3. Round of 16 Corinna Dentoni (ITALY) Win 6-4 6-0
4. Quarterfinal Alexandra Panova (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-1
5. Semifinal Kateřina Vaňková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-1
6. Final Nastia Pavlyuchenkova (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-4

**2007 NORDIC LIGHT OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Tatjana Maria (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-1
2. Round of 16 Marta Domachowska (POLAND) Win 6-0 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-4 6-1
4. Semifinal Tsvetana Pironkova (BULGARIA) Win 6-4 6-3
5. Final Vera Dushevina (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-1

**2008 THAILAND OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Vania King (USA) Win 7-5 7-6[5]
2. Round of 16 Anne Kremer (LUXEMBOURG) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Tamarine Tanasugarn (THAILAND) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Semifinal Ekaterina Bychkova (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-1
5. Final Jill Craybas (USA) Win 6-2 1-6 7-6[4]

**2010 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Chanelle Scheepers (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 7-5 6-3
2. Round of 16 Dinara Safina (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Shahar Pe’er (ISRAEL) Win 6-2 6-0
4. Semifinal Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-4 6-2
5. Final Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUSSIA) Loss 6-4 6-7[7] 6-3

**2011 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jie Zheng (CHINA) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Round of 16 Sofia Arvidsson (SWEDEN) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 6-3 3-2 RETIRED
4. Semifinal Flavia Pennetta (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final Andrea Petkovic (GERMANY) Win 7-5 0-6 6-4

**2012 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Madison Keys Win 6-1 6-1
2. Round of 32 Sílvia Soler Espinosa (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Round of 16 Garbiñe Muguruza (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Quarterfinal Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-4 6-1
5. Semifinal Marion Bartoli (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-2
6. Final Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-4

**2012 BRUSSELS OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Lesia Tsurenko (UKRAINE) Win 6-1 6-0
2. Quarterfinal Alison Van Uytvanck (BELGIUM) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Semifinal Kaia Kanepi (ESTONIA) Win 7-6[8] 6-3
4. Final Simona Halep (ROMANIA) Win 7-5 6-0

**2012 PAN PACIFIC OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Jelena Janković (SERBIA) Win 6-2 7-5
2. Round of 16 Jamie Hampton (USA) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-4 6-3
4. Semifinal Angelique Kerber (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-1
5. Final Nadia Petrova (RUSSIA) Loss 6-0 1-6 6-3

**2013 AUCKLAND OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Gréta Arn (HUNGARY) Win 6-2 6-2
2. Round of 16 Simona Halep (ROMANIA) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Jamie Hampton (USA) Win 7-6[4] 7-6[3]
5. Final Yanina Wickmayer (BELGIUM) Win 6-4 6-4

**2013 SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Kimiko Date-Krumm (JAPAN) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Roberta Vinci (ITALY) Win 6-4 7-5
3. Semifinal Na Li (CHINA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Final Dominika Cibulková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-0 6-0

**2013 KOREA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Alexandra Cadanțu-Ignatik (ROMANIA) Win 6-4 6-0
2. Round of 16 Estrella Cabeza Candela (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Vera Dushevina (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-0
4. Semifinal Lara Arruabarrena (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-2
5. Final Nastia Pavlyuchenkova (RUSSIA) Win 6-7[6] 6-3 6-4

**2015 PAN PACIFIC OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Coco Vandeweghe (USA) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Round of 16 Elina Svitolina (UKRAINE) Win 6-4 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-5 6-2
4. Semifinal Dominika Cibulková (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-4 6-1
5. Final Belinda Bencic (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-2 6-2

**2015 TIANJIN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Olga Savchuk (UKRAINE) Win 6-1 6-0
2. Round of 16 Wang Qiang (CHINA) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Elizaveta Kulichkova (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[3] 6-2
4. Semifinal Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-1
5. Final Danka Kovinić (MONTENEGRO) Win 6-1 6-2

**2016 SHENZHEN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Aleksandra Krunić (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 16 Shuai Zhang (CHINA) Win 6-1 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Wang Qiang (CHINA) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Semifinal Anna-Lena Friedsam (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final Alison Riske-Amritraj (USA) Win 6-3 6-2

**2016 CONNECTICUT OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Jeļena Ostapenko (LATVIA) Win 7-5 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Kirsten Flipkens (BELGIUM) Win 6-1 6-4
3. Semifinal Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Final Elina Svitolina (UKRAINE) Win 6-1 7-6[3]

**2016 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Wang Qiang (CHINA) Win 6-2 6-2
2. Round of 32 Katya Makarova (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-4
3. Round of 16 Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-3 6-1
4. Quarterfinal Slava Shvedova (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-1, 6-2
5. Semifinal Elina Svitolina (UKRAINE) Win 7-6[3] 6-3
6. Final Jo Konta (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-4 6-2

# **JANNIK SINNER (ITALY)**

Sinner began both skiing and playing tennis at the age of three. He won a national championship in giant slalom at age eight and a national runner-up at the age of 12. When he was training in skiing, he gave up tennis for a year at the age of seven. At the age of 13, he gave up skiing to pursue a tennis career. He credits his background in skiing for improving his tennis skills. His strengths are his backhand and movement. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2021 GREAT OCEAN ROAD OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Aleksandar Vukic (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-2 6-4
2. Round of 16 Aljaž Bedene (SLOVENIA) Win 7-6[6] 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Miomir Kecmanović (SERBIA) Win 7-6[12] 6-4
4. Semifinal Thiago Monteiro (BRAZIL) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Stefano Travaglia (ITALY) Win 7-6[4] 6-4

**2021 WASHINGTON OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Emil Ruusuvuori (FINLAND) Win 6-2 6-4
2. Round of 16 Sebastian Korda (USA) Win 7-6[3] 7-6[3]
3. Quarterfinal Steve Johnson (USA) Win 6-4 6-2
4. Semifinal Jenson Brooksby (USA) Win 7-6[2] 6-1
5. Final Mackie McDonald (USA) Win 7-5 4-6 7-5

**2022 CROATIA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Jaume Munar (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Quarterfinal Roberto Carballés Baena (SPAIN) Win 6-4 7-6[5]
3. Semifinal Franco Agamenone (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-3
4. Final Carlos Alcaraz (SPAIN) Win 6-7[5] 6-1 6-1

**2023 OPEN SUD DE FRANCE [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Quarterfinal Lorenzo Sonego (ITALY) Win 6-4 6-2
2. Semifinal Arthur Fils (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-2
3. Final Maxime Cressy (USA) Win 7-6[3] 6-3

# **ANGELIQUE KERBER (GERMANY)**

Kerber is naturally right-handed but plays left-handed. She is a defensive baseline player with speed, agility, athleticism, and footwork. Her counterpunching playing style lets her extend the rallies and hit low-risk winners with ease. This helped her reach two Grand Slam finals and the Rio Olympics in her 2016 breakthrough season without dropping a set:

**2016 WIMBLEDON [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Laura Robson (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 6-2
2. Round of 64 Varvara Lepchenko (USA) Win 6-1 6-4
3. Round of 32 Carina Witthöft (GERMANY) Win 7-6[11] 6-1
4. Round of 16 Misaki Doi (JAPAN) Win 6-3 6-1
5. Quarterfinal Simona Halep (ROMANIA) Win 7-5 7-6[2]
6. Semifinal Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-4 6-4
7. Final Serena Williams (USA) Loss 7-5 6-3

Halep is an aggressive counterpuncher. She relies on nullifying points with her return and moving the ball around with precise touches. She can blend both offense and defense together. But her height and lack of power are two weaknesses in her game. Her serve doesn’t come down from a good height and she can’t create power to end points quickly. In the first set, Kerber held to love in the first game. Then, she broke in the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, and 12th games, while Halep broke in the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth games. In the second set, Kerber broke in the sixth and eighth games, while Halep broke in the seventh and ninth games. The 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game, because she was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. Then, Kerber sealed the second-set tiebreak and the match with a double minibreak.

When Kerber faced Venus in the semifinals, there were nonstop breaks of serve in the first set. Kerber broke in the first, third, and seventh games, while Venus broke in the second, fourth, and eighth games. In the first game of the second set, Venus won her first two service points. But Kerber won six straight points, from the first game into the second game. This was the lone break of the second set. In the fifth game, Venus lost her first service point, before she won her next two service points. Kerber won the next two points to give herself a break point opportunity. But Venus saved three break points in a lengthy deuce game to keep herself alive on the scoreboard.

Even though Kerber lost to Serena in the final in straight sets, I still thought she played a great match. Kerber conceded only one double fault, maintained a first serve percentage of 67%, won 59% of her first serve points, and won 71% of her second serve points. Her 12 winners were balanced out by only nine unforced errors. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first 11 games. The 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Kerber, because she was serving to force a first-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the first set. Kerber’s biggest weakness is her serve. She doesn’t have a big serve to get out of trouble, because she rarely wins above 50% of her second serve points. As a result, she dropped serve in the 12th game. In the second set, both players traded service holds for the first seven games. In the seventh game, Serena won her first service point before Kerber won the next two service points. After Serena found a big first serve, Kerber earned her lone break point opportunity of the match on the next point. But this was a costly loss for Kerber. Instead of breaking Serena’s serve, Serena scorched down two consecutive aces and forced a backhand return error from Kerber to edge through a crucial service hold. While this next eighth game wasn’t necessarily a **MUST-HOLD** game for Kerber, it seemed to look that way to me, though. I was curious to see how Kerber would respond in the eighth game, after she failed to convert on her lone break point opportunity in the seventh game. But just as I had anticipated, Kerber dropped serve in the eighth game and Serena effectively served out the match to love in the ninth game.

**2016 RIO OLYMPICS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Mariana Duque-Mariño (COLOMBIA) Win 6-3 7-5
2. Round of 32 Genie Bouchard (CANADA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Round of 16 Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-0 7-5
4. Quarterfinal Jo Konta (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Semifinal Madison Keys (USA) Win 6-3 7-5
6. Final Monica Puig (PUERTO RICO) Loss 6-4 4-6 6-1

**2016 US OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Polona Hercog (SLOVENIA) Win 6-0 1-0 RETIRED
2. Round of 64 Mirjana Lučić-Baroni (CROATIA) Win 6-2 7-6[7]
3. Round of 32 Cici Bellis (USA) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Round of 16 Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 7-5
5. Quarterfinal Roberta Vinci (ITALY) Win 7-5 6-0
6. Semifinal Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-4 6-3
7. Final Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 4-6 6-4

# **SHUAI ZHANG (CHINA)**

Zhang is a flexible player. Her game is enhanced with slices, lobs drop shots, stamina, and quick reflexes. She is never afraid to approach the net to finish off the points. She can read the game to make the most of her main strengths. This helped her reach her first indoor hard-court final and multiple doubles finals with various partners across two surfaces, all without dropping a set:

**2022 LYON OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Kristina Mladenovic (FRANCE) Win 7-6[3] 7-5
2. Round of 16 Arantxa Rus (NETHERLANDS) Win 6-4 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Vitalia Diatchenko (RUSSIA) Win 3-0 RETIRED
4. Semifinal Caroline Garcia (FRANCE) Win 6-2 7-5
5. Final Dayana Yastremska (UKRAINE) Win 3-6 6-3 6-4

The Lyon Open is held annually in the first week of March in Lyon, France. It debuted on the WTA tour in the 2020 season and is played on indoor hard courts. Yastremska is an aggressive baseline player. Her groundstrokes are hit with power, depth, and speed. Her backhand lets her hit sharp angles. She can add a slice to this shot to break up the pace of the rallies and construct points intelligently. The 2022 Lyon Open kicked off when Russia invaded Ukraine. Yastremska was living with her family in Odesa before she and her younger sister escaped to settle down in Lyon. When Yastremska kicked off her campaign, she saved two match points in her opener. After she scored two more straight set wins in the Round of 16 and quarterfinals, a stern test came in the semifinals. When Zhang reached the final without dropping a set, she awaited the winner of the second semifinal between Yastremska and Cîrstea. Cîrstea also reached the semifinals without dropping a set. This was a similar challenge I faced earlier when I wrote about Barty’s 2021 Cincinnati win. Had Cîrstea defeated Yastremska in straight sets, I wouldn’t have been able to write about this tournament at all. But after Cîrstea dropped the first set tiebreak, I knew that Zhang had the physical advantage in the final. Regardless of whether this match was decided in straight sets or three sets, the results wouldn’t have mattered. Whoever was the winner would have to deal with the fatigue factor. Ultimately, Yastremska outlasted Cîrstea in a tight three-setter. In the final, Yastremska broke in the sixth game of the first set and the first game of the second set. But Zhang broke in the second and fourth games to send the match to a decider. In the third set, Yastremska broke in the second and sixth games. But Zhang broke in the third, seventh, and ninth games.

**2022 STUTTGART OPEN [RUNNERS-UP] SCORE**

**PARTNER – COCO GAUFF (USA)**

* 1. Nadiia Kichenok (UKRAINE)/Anastasia Rodionova (AUSTRALIA) 6-1 6-1
  2. Paula Badosa (SPAIN)/Aryna Sabalenka (BELARUS) WALKOVER
  3. Shuko Aoyama (JAPAN)/Angel Chan (CHINESE TAIPEI) 6-2 6-3
  4. Desirae Krawczyk (USA)/Demi Schuurs (NETHERLANDS) 6-3 6-4

**2022 BIRMINGHAM CLASSIC [RUNNERS-UP] SCORE**

**PARTNER – ELISE MERTENS (BELGIUM)**

1. Catherine Harrison (USA)/Sabrina Santamaria (USA) 6-2 6-3
2. Monica Niculescu (ROMANIA/Elena-Gabriela Ruse (ROMANIA) 6-2 7-6[2]
3. Latisha Chan (CHINESE TAIPEI)/Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) 6-1 7-5
4. Lyudmyla Kichenok (UKRAINE)/Jeļena Ostapenko (LATVIA) WALKOVER

# **WOMEN’S DOUBLES + MIXED DOUBLES**

In my final heading, I chose to merge my subheadings of my favorite women’s doubles and mixed doubles team into one heading together. When I showcased my players’ main headings on how their playing styles helped them reach multiple finals without dropping a set, some of those tournaments were when those players didn’t get pushed into a tiebreak beyond the 7-5 set scoreline. Serena, Djokovic, Nadal, and Sharapova soared to that occasion umpteen times. I was interested to find out if this ability was possible in either women’s doubles, mixed doubles, or both. Given how Serena, Djokovic, Nadal, and Sharapova were the only four players to do it, I knew it was going to be difficult. If only four singles players could do it, the possibility of doubles teams being able to do it was slim to none. But based on how it turned out, we did have three teams [two women’s, one mixed] accomplish this standard beautifully!

**CASEY DELLACQUA (AUSTRALIA)/SLAVA SHVEDOVA (KAZAKHSTAN)**

**2015 FRENCH OPEN [RUNNERS-UP] RESULT**

1. Chan Chin-Wei (CHINESE TAIPEI)/Lauren Davis (USA) 6-1 6-2
2. Alizé Cornet (FRANCE)/Madga Linette (POLAND) 6-2 6-1
3. Caroline Garcia (FRANCE)/Katarina Srebotnik (SLOVENIA) 6-1 6-1
4. Michaëlla Krajicek (NETHERLANDS)/Barbora Strýcová (CZECH REPUBLIC) 6-3 7-5
5. Katya Makarova (RUSSIA)/Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) 6-3 6-2
6. Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA)/Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC) 3-6 6-4 6-2

Dellacqua and Shvedova formed a unique partnership with their playing styles. Dellacqua is a baseline player. She can hit her lefty forehand down-the-line and her backhand directly crosscourt. She can also put spin and angles on her groundstrokes. Meanwhile, Shvedova has efficient groundstrokes and proficiency at the net. The Australian-Kazakh duo played their best tennis in their semifinal match against Makarova and Vesnina. Makarova is an all-court player, who uses power and angles to set up passing shots. Her lefty slice serve frequently puts her opponents out of their comfort zones. She hits powerfully with aggressive groundstrokes. Her cross-court forehand is a strong ending shot. Meanwhile, Vesnina has an all-court game that is offensive at the baseline. Makarova and Vesnina were the favorites to take home the title. But experience helped Dellacqua and Shvedova win this match in two sets. Shvedova won two Grand Slam titles with King in 2010 at Wimbledon and the US Open. When Shvedova and King won Wimbledon, they faced Vesnina and Zvonareva. Taking that final into account, Shvedova knew exactly what to expect from Vesnina. As a result, Dellacqua and Shvedova earned the lone break of the first set in the eighth game and two breaks in the fifth and seventh games of the second set. As it turns out, Serena also faced this same exact scenario when she won the 2017 Australian Open without dropping a set, especially in her quarterfinal match against Konta. Since Konta is an aggressive baseliner with flat, quick, angled, sharp, powerful groundstrokes, it was easy to believe that she would push Serena to three sets. But since Konta is someone that Venus faced before, Serena reached out to Venus to get tips on what to expect in the match. Luckily, it worked out and Serena got the job done in straight sets.

**MARTINA HINGIS (SWITZERLAND)/SANIA MIRZA (INDIA)**

**2015 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPIONS] RESULT**

1. Zarina Diyas (KAZAKHSTAN)/Zheng Saisai (CHINA) 6-2 6-2
2. Kimiko Date-Krumm (JAPAN)/Francesca Schiavone (ITALY) 6-0 6-1
3. Anabel Medina Garrigues (SPAIN)/Arantxa Parra Santonja (SPAIN) 6-4 6-3
4. Casey Dellacqua (AUSTRALIA)/Slava Shvedova (KAZAKHSTAN) 7-5 6-3
5. Raquel Kops-Jones (USA)/Abigail Spears (USA) 6-1 6-2
6. Katya Makarova (RUSSIA)/Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) 5-7 7-6[4] 7-5

Hingis and Mirza formed a perfect partnership with their playing styles. Hingis is an all-court player with an intelligent, crafty game. She can make up her power with her skilled movement, anticipation, point construction, and shot selection. Her forehand lets her create sharp angles and dictate the rallies. Her two-handed backhand redirects power down-the-line. She can hit this shot as a slice. She possesses a complete range of shots at the net. Her best combination is a drop shot, followed by a lob. Meanwhile, Mirza is an offensive baseliner. She can set up attacks with sharp velocity off her groundstrokes. Her main strengths are her forehand and volleying skills. She is a terrific returner of serve because she can find return winners at the perfect time.

When Hingis and Mirza faced Makarova and Vesnina in the title match, the Swiss-Miss Indian duo pulled off a comeback win against the Russians. In the first set, the Russians broke in the first and 11th games, while Hingis and Mirza broke in the second game. In the second set, both teams traded service holds for all 12 games, then Hingis and Mirza won the second set tiebreak. In the final set, Makarova and Vesnina broke in the fourth game. The eighth game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Hingis and Mirza, because they were serving to stay in the match. Hingis and Mirza boldly held in the eighth game to force Makarova and Vesnina to serve for the match in the ninth game. But instead of winning their third Grand Slam title, Makarova and Vesnina dropped serve in the ninth game. After Hingis and Mirza held in the 10th game, the tournament officials suspended the match to close the roof. Once both teams returned, I knew that there was a huge shift in momentum. Makarova and Vesnina were on the brink of victory in the seventh game. But after they failed to serve out the match in the ninth game and let Hingis and Mirza hold in the 10th game, I could tell that their nerves and the fatigue factor crept in. While this next 11th game was not necessarily a **MUST-HOLD** game for Makarova and Vesnina, I still got the sense that it was an important game, because I knew that they started to look ahead towards the finish line. When they got excited about being a game away from victory in the seventh, eighth and ninth games, they went for too much, too soon. As a result, Hingis and Mirza broke in the 11th game and successfully served out the match to love in the 12th game.

**Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA)/Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC)**

**2016 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPIONS] RESULT**

1. Sloane Stephens (USA)/Madison Keys (USA) 6-4 6-2
2. Daria Kasatkina (RUSSIA)/Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) 6-3 6-2
3. Andrea Hlaváčková (CZECH REPUBLIC)/Lucie Hradecká (CZECH REPUBLIC) 7-5 6-3
4. Xu Yifan (CHINA)/Zheng Saisai (CHINA) 6-2 6-1
5. Tímea Babos (HUNGARY)/Slava Shvedova (KAZAKHSTAN) 6-3 6-4

Mattek-Sands and Šafářová formed a superb partnership. Mattek-Sands plays a versatile, all-court style with speed, determination, skill, and agility. Meanwhile, Šafářová plays left-handed with a high topspin forehand. This helped them inflict the ongoing drought at the 2016 Miami Open. An ongoing drought means that since a specific edition of a tournament, neither a singles player nor doubles team has been able to successfully reach a final without dropping a set. I first witnessed this when Dellacqua and Shvedova accomplished the feat at the 2015 French Open. I initially only believed that it was common with singles players. But, once Mattek-Sands and Šafářová followed suit at the 2016 Miami Open, I eventually realized that it was popular in doubles too.

**GABY DABROWSKI (CANADA)/ROHAN BOPANNA (INDIA)**

**2017 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPIONS] RESULT**

1. Jessica Moore (AUSTRALIA)/Matt Reid (AUSTRALIA) 6-0 6-1
2. Chloé Paquet (FRANCE)/Benoît Paire (FRANCE) 6-3 6-2
3. Sania Mirza (INDIA)/Ivan Dodig (CROATIA) 6-3 6-4
4. Andrea Hlaváčková (CZECH REPUBLIC)/Édouard Roger-Vasselin (FRANCE) 7-5 6-3
5. Anna-Lena Grönefeld (GERMANY)/Robert Farah (COLOMBIA) 2-6 6-2 11-9

Dabrowski is an all-court player with touch shots. Meanwhile, Bopanna has a serve-oriented game. He uses his serve to set up points. He is also proficient at the net with his sharp reflexes. The mixed doubles edition of the 2017 French Open was my favorite. Even though I was born and raised in the US, Canada and India are two countries that each have their own equal, symmetrical places in my heart. Since my birthday is on Canada’s national holiday, Canada Day, I always root for Canadian athletes. Even though I wasn’t familiar with Indian athletes as much as I was with the American and Canadian folks, I still decided to support Dabrowski and Bopanna, because India is the country where my family is from. Dabrowski and Bopanna yielded 21 games in four matches. Grönefeld and Farah broke in the third and seventh games of the first set. When Grönefeld and Farah broke in the third game of the second set, the German-Colombian duo were on their way to winning their first Grand Slam title in two sets. But Dabrowski and Bopanna broke in the fourth, sixth, and eighth games. Then, the Canadian Indian duo took home the title in a match tiebreak. Seeing two women’s and one mixed doubles team reach two Grand Slam finals on two different surfaces without dropping a set beyond the 7-5 set scoreline is a vivid success in tennis history. It’ll be hard for me to pick a favorite between those two tournaments. But I’ll call it a tie!

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