  

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

I enjoy watching all four Grand Slams [Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open] and other tournaments on the ATP [Association of Tennis Professionals] and WTA [Women’s Tennis Association] tours. I will either analyze all the matches from a player’s run in a tournament, or I will focus on certain matches from specific rounds.

# **2010 WIMBLEDON – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

23-time Grand Slam Champion Serena Williams (USA) is a baseline player. Her forehand and double-handed backhand are the most powerful shots her game. Her serve is also powerful and stable. Her serve is lethal because it allows her to place powerful shots with terrific accuracy:

1. Michelle Larcher de Brito (PORTUGAL): 6-0 6-4
   1. 15 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 47 winners
   4. 15 unforced errors
2. Anna Chakvetadze (RUSSIA): 6-0 6-1
   1. Nine aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 27 winners
   4. 15 unforced errors
3. Dominika Cibulková (SLOVAKIA): 6-0 7-5
   1. 19 aces
   2. Zero double faults
   3. 38 winners
   4. Nine unforced errors
4. Maria Sharapova (RUSSIA): 7-6[11-9] 6-4
   1. 19 aces
   2. Five double faults
   3. 31 winners
   4. 17 unforced errors
5. Na Li (CHINA): 7-5 6-3
   1. 11 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 21 winners
   4. Six unforced errors
6. Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC): 7-6[7-5] 6-2
   1. Seven aces
   2. Three double faults
   3. 19 winners
   4. 14 unforced errors
7. Vera Zvonareva (RUSSIA): 6-3 6-2
   1. Nine aces
   2. Three double faults
   3. 29 winners
   4. 15 unforced errors

In seven matches, Serena crushed 89 aces and 212 errors. Those aces and winners outnumbered 15 double faults and 91 unforced errors. She had positive ratios in the aces-double faults and winners-unforced errors categories. This is what helped her win the title without dropping a set.

In her first-round match against Larcher de Brito, Serena received serve. In the first game of the first set, Larcher de Brito lost her first two service points before she found two backhand winners. Serena earned a break point with a forehand winner. Larcher de Brito saved the break point with a backhand winner, but Serena won win the next two points to break. In the second game, Serena raced out to triple game point before Larcher de Brito won two return points. Then, Serena held with an ace. She broke Larcher de Brito in the third and fifth games and successfully served out the first set in the sixth game. Serena broke Larcher de Brito in the first game of the second set. But this time, Larcher de Brito held in the third, fifth, and seventh games. In the ninth game, Larcher de Brito lost her first two service points before she won the next two points. Serena won the next point to earn her first match point. But Larcher de Brito won the next three points to hold. Then, Serena successfully served out the match in the 10th game.

When Serena faced Chakvetadze, she had another routine win. Serena won the first 11 games before Chakvetadze held in the sixth game of the second set. Then, Serena successfully served out the match in the seventh game. She saved all three break points she faced. Additionally, she had four times the number of aces and twice the number of winners.

In her third-round match against Cibulková, Serena broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games of the first set. In the second set, both players traded service holds for the first 11 games. The 11th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Cibulková. Cibulková was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. In the 11th game, Cibulková won her first service point before Serena won the next two points. Cibulková won the next two points to get to game point on her serve. But instead of it being a second-set tiebreak, Serena got to match point with two winners. Then, she forced a backhand error from Cibulková to win the match.

In her fourth-round match against Sharapova, Serena broke in the third game of the first set. Then, Sharapova broke in the fourth game. The rest of the set went on serve into a tiebreak. Serena saved four set points on her serve and won the first-set tiebreak. In the second set, Serena broke in the third game. When she served for the match in the 10th game, she raced out to triple match point. Sharapova saved the first on Serena’s fifth double fault but missed a forehand on the second.

Just like her opener against Larcher de Brito, Serena also received serve in her quarterfinal match against Li. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first 10 games. In the 11th game, Li raced out to triple game point on her serve. But she got pegged back to deuce with two forehand errors and a double fault. Serena earned a break point after Li hit a second repeated double fault. Then, Li missed a forehand volley to drop serve. From triple game point in the 11th game, Serena won six straight points to earn the crucial break and serve for the first set in the 12th game. In the 12th game, Serena missed her first service point with a backhand error. But she won her last four service points smoothly and closed out the set with a backhand winner. She crushed 13 winners to only five unforced errors and did not face a single break point in the first set. Things could have difficult for Serena if Li breezed through a love hold in that previous 11th game. If that were the circumstance, then Serena would need to hold her own serve in the 12th game to force a first-set tiebreak. But Serena did a really good job of earning the key break when Li let her in from triple game point back to deuce. When deuce became break point in Serena’s favor, Serena took advantage of Li’s dip in form. That is where her mental toughness stood out and she successfully served out the first set in the 12th game. In the second set, Serena broke in the fifth and seventh games. Li broke in the eighth game, but Serena broke in the ninth game to win the match.

In her semifinal match against Kvitová, Serena was broken in the fifth game. But she broke in the eighth game. The next four games went on serve into a tiebreak. In the first-set tiebreak, Serena won the first four points before Kvitová won the next three points. Then, Serena won the next two points to give herself three set points. Kvitová saved the first two. But Serena closed out the first-set tiebreak on her serve. In the second set, Serena broke in the fifth game. Then, Kvitová dropped serve again in the seventh game. In the eighth game, Serena raced out to triple match point. Kvitová saved the first two match points. But Serena won the match on a backhand winner to set up a championship match against Zvonareva.

In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first seven games. Then, Serena broke Zvonareva in the eighth game to serve for the first set. In the ninth game, Serena raced out to triple set point before Zvonareva fought back to deuce. Then, Serena won her last two service points to win the first set. In the second set, Serena broke Zvonareva in the first and fifth games. Then, she successfully served out the match to love in the eighth game.

# **2011 US OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

After Serena won her fourth Wimbledon title, she was away from the tour for 11 months due to health. This caused her ranking to plunge to 175. But after she won two titles in Stanford and Toronto, she returned to the top 32 seeds of the WTA rankings. Thanks to her Toronto win, she booked her place in her first Grand Slam final since Wimbledon 2010:

1. Bojana Jovanovski (SERBIA): 6-1 6-1
   1. Four aces
   2. Zero double faults
   3. 22 winners
   4. 10 unforced errors
2. Michaëlla Krajicek (NETHERLANDS): 6-0 6-1
   1. 10 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 25 winners
   4. 10 unforced errors
3. Victória Azárenka (BELARUS): 6-1 7-6[7-5]
   1. 12 aces
   2. Four double faults
   3. 39 winners
   4. 24 unforced errors
4. Ana Ivanović (SERBIA): 6-3 6-4
   1. Nine aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 16 winners
   4. 14 unforced errors
5. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUSSIA): 7-5 6-1
   1. Six aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 26 winners
   4. 23 unforced errors
6. Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK): 6-2 6-4
   1. 11 aces
   2. Four double faults
   3. 34 winners
   4. 34 unforced errors

When Serena faced Wozniacki in the semifinals, there was a lot at stake in this match. Serena was a veteran in the sport, while Wozniacki was the number one player in the world. Wozniacki has a playing style that labels her as a counterpuncher. This means that her tennis is more defensive than offensive. She anticipates her serve with her footwork and her two-handed backhand down-the-line is her strongest shot. Most of the time, her counterpunching style works against almost everyone else. But in this case, it betrayed her. In the first set, Serena broke in the fourth game. Then, Wozniacki broke in the sixth game when Serena served for the first set. But Serena broke in the seventh game to win the first set. The second set was tighter, as Serena broke in the third game. Serena served for the match in the ninth game, but Wozniacki broke to get back on serve. Despite this loss of serve, Serena regrouped smoothly and broke Wozniacki in the 10th game to win the match. Things could have tough for Serena if Wozniacki efficiently held in the 10th game. If that were the situation, then Serena would need to hold her own serve in the 11th game. But Serena did a really good job of dictating Wozniacki’s game plan. Even though her 34 winners were an identical match to 34 unforced errors, her serving stats were strong with almost three times the number of aces to double faults. With this win, Serena dropped only 29 games in six matches. Even though she lost the championship match to Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA), she still had a strong ending to the year. Her year-end ranking was number 12 with two titles won, 22 wins, and three losses.

# **2012 BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Serena returned to vintage form in 2012. She won two clay court titles in Charleston and Madrid. This helped her return to the top 10 of the WTA rankings at number six. Serena hired Patrick Mouratoglou (FRANCE) as her coach before Wimbledon started. In their first tournament together, Serena won Wimbledon. Two weeks after winning Wimbledon, Serena won the title in Stanford:

1. Nicole Gibbs (USA): 6-2 6-1
2. Chanelle Scheepers (SOUTH AFRICA): 6-4 6-0
3. Sorana Cîrstea (ROMANIA): 6-1 6-2
4. Coco Vandeweghe (USA): 7-5 6-3

When Serena faced Vandeweghe in the finals, this was the first all-American WTA Final on home soil. The first set featured umpteen breaks of serve. Serena broke in the second and fourth games. Then, Vandeweghe broke in the third, fifth, and seventh games. When Serena was serving to stay in the set in the eighth game, she lost her first two service points. But she won the next four points to keep herself alive in the first set. This put pressure on Vandweghe to serve out the first set in the 10th game. Vandeweghe had a set point on her serve. But Serena broke to get back on serve. After Serena held in the 11th game, the pressure on Vandeweghe mounted. When she failed to serve out the first set, now she was forced to hold in the 12th game to stay in the first set. In the 12th game, Serena won Vandeweghe’s first service point before Vandeweghe won the next three points. But Serena won the last four points to claim the first set. Things could have been problematic for Serena if Vandeweghe successfully served out the first set. But when Serena hammered the return on Vandeweghe’s set point service point, Vandweghe’s nerves crept in. After Serena held in the 11th game, she took advantage of Vandeweghe’s dip in form. In the second set, Serena broke in the fourth game. When she served for the match in the ninth game, she lost her first service point. But she won the last four points.

# **2012 LONDON OLYMPICS – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Serena achieved a Career Golden Slam in winning all four Grand Slam tournaments and an Olympic gold medal. She beat four former world number one players and won the title without dropping a set:

1. Jelena Janković (SERBIA): 6-3 6-1
   1. Eight aces
   2. Zero double faults
   3. 20 winners
   4. 11 unforced errors
2. Urszula Radwańska (POLAND): 6-2 6-3
   1. Eight aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 26 winners
   4. 16 unforced errors
3. Zvonareva: 6-0 6-1
   1. 12 aces
   2. Zero double faults
   3. 32 winners
   4. Eight unforced errors
4. Wozniacki: 6-0 6-3
   1. Six aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 30 winners
   4. 17 unforced errors
5. Azárenka: 6-1 6-2
   1. 16 aces
   2. Zero double faults
   3. 33 winners
   4. Five unforced errors
6. Sharapova: 6-0 6-1
   1. 10 aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 24 winners
   4. Seven unforced errors

Serena was in blistering form in her quarterfinal match against Wozniacki. In the first set, she broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games. She won the first set without dropping a single game. In the second set, Wozniacki showed more resilience when she earned her first hold of the match in the second game. Serena broke in the fourth game. But this was the only break of the second set. When Serena served for the match in the ninth game, Wozniacki won Serena’s first service point with a crosscourt backhand winner. But Serena won the last four points with her sixth ace and three winners.

# **2013 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

The Australian Open is the first Grand Slam tournament of the year. The Australian Open series is a group of tune-up tournaments that lead up to the Australian Open. The Brisbane International is the first tournament of the year in the Australian Open series. It is held at the Queensland Tennis Center in Brisbane, which is in the Australian state of Queensland.

Serena first played in Brisbane in 2012. After she won her opener against Jovanovski, she withdrew from the tournament with a left ankle injury. But in 2013, she won the title:

1. Varvara Lepchenko (USA): 6-2 6-1
2. Alizé Cornet (FRANCE): 6-2 6-2
3. Sloane Stephens (USA): 6-4 6-3
4. Pavlyuchenkova: 6-2 6-1

# **2014 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Serena won the Brisbane International for a second straight year. She did not play her best. But it was not her worst either. She became the **FIRST** woman to successfully defend her title at the event:

1. Andrea Petkovic (GERMANY): 6-4 6-4
2. Cibulková: 6-3 6-3
3. Sharapova: 6-2 7-6(9-7)
4. Azárenka: 6-4 7-5

Serena received serve against Azárenka in the championship match. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first six games. Then, Serena broke in the seventh game. In the second set, Serena broke Azárenka in the first game. Then, Azárenka broke in the fourth and sixth games. But Serena broke in the seventh game. In the 10th game, Serena lost her first two service points. But she recovered to win the next four points. After Azárenka missed her opportunities on Serena’s first two service points in the 10th game, she lost serve in the 11th game. In the 12th game, Serena won her first two service points with her 11th ace and a service winner. Azárenka won the next point with a cross-court backhand winner. Then, Serena blasted down two service winners to win the match. Things were complex for Serena in the 10th and 11th games. She was serving to stay in the set in the 10th game and Azárenka had game point on her serve twice in the 11th game. When Serena lost her first two service points in the 10th game, it looked like Azárenka was going to claim the second set and force a third set. But when Serena won four straight points, those chances of a third set occurring became slim. Azárenka’s frustration grew after she botched her opportunities on Serena’s first two service points in the 10th game. Her level dropped in the 11th game and Serena took full advantage of this dip in form. Even though Serena’s own level fluctuated in the second set, fortunately, her serve was still thriving. It was her top shot in her service games. In the 98-minute match duration, she did **NOT** cough up a **SINGLE** double fault. She became the **ONLY** woman to win the title two consecutive years in a row **WITHOUT** dropping a set both times. From her opener in 2013 to this championship match in 2014, her perfect streak was 16 sets won and zero sets lost.

# **2014 US OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

In the first half of 2014, Serena struggled at the first three Grand Slams. But after her third-round loss at Wimbledon, she rebounded in spectacular fashion. She won 19 of her next 20 matches with two titles in Stanford and Cincinnati. Then, she won her sixth US Open title:

1. Taylor Townsend (USA): 6-3 6-1
2. Vania King (USA): 6-1 6-0
3. Lepchenko: 6-3 6-3
4. Kaia Kanepi (ESTONIA): 6-3 6-3
5. Flavia Pennetta (ITALY): 6-3 6-2
6. Ekaterina Makarova (RUSSIA): 6-1 6-3
7. Wozniacki: 6-3 6-3

Serena was on the ropes in her quarterfinal match against Pennetta. When Pennetta broke Serena in the first and third games, it looked like she was on her way to winning the first four games against Serena. But Serena broke in the fourth, sixth games, and eighth games and efficiently served out the first set in the ninth game. Things could have been complicated if Serena had lost the first four games in the first set against Pennetta. But once she broke in the fourth, sixth and eighth games, she started controlling the rallies and her game clicked into place. Not only did she elevate her level, but she also took advantage of Pennetta’s nerves. Then, Serena broke in the fifth and seventh games of the second set to win the match.

The championship match between Wozniacki and Serena was one to remember. This was a match between the current world number one and former world number one. But these two are also best friends. When Serena was recovering from her health issues in 2011, Wozniacki visited Serena in the hospital. Similarly, in 2014, Serena spent time with Wozniacki after her engagement with Irish golfer Rory McIlroy, was called off. This was also the same time they vacationed together in Miami after they suffered early losses at the French Open.

In the championship match against Wozniacki, Serena held in the first game of the first set. Then, she and Wozniacki traded breaks for the next six games. Serena held in the seventh game. Then, Wozniacki held in the eighth game. When Serena served for the first set in the ninth game, she lost her first service point. But she won the last four points. In the second set, Serena broke Wozniacki in the first and the ninth games to win the title. Despite this loss, this strengthened their friendship. After the match, they went out for drinks together in downtown Manhattan. Two months later, Serena was present to cheer Wozniacki when she ran the New York City Marathon and they also went on a tour around New York City.

# **2015 WIMBLEDON – WOMEN’S DOUBLES**

Martina Hingis (SWITZERLAND) and Sania Mirza (INDIA) formed a unique partnership with their playing styles. Hingis is an all-court player with a crafty game. Her movement, anticipation, point construction, shot selection, and court coverage were top-notch. Her two-handed backhand was her best groundstroke. She can also hit her backhand one-handed as a slice. On the other hand, Mirza is an offensive baseliner. Her groundstrokes are more powerful on her forehand and volley. This helped them win titles in Indian Wells, Miami, and Charleston to become co-world number one in doubles. They never won a Grand Slam title. But that changed at Wimbledon:

1. Zarina Diyas (KAZAKHSTAN)/Saisai Zheng (CHINA): 6-2 6-2
2. Francesca Schiavone (ITALY)/Kimiko Date-Krumm (JAPAN): 6-0 6-1
3. Medina Garrigues/Arantxa Parra Santonja (SPAIN): 6-4 6-3
4. Dellacqua/Shvedova: 7-5 6-3
5. Raquel Kops-Jones (USA)/Abigail Spears (USA): 6-1 6-2

This Swiss-Miss Indian duo reached their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set. Their run set them up a championship match against Makarova and Vesnina. In the first set, Makarova and Vesnina broke Hingis and Mirza in the first and 11th games before they effectively served out the first set in the 12th game. In the second set, both teams traded service holds for all 12 games to drive a tiebreak, which Hingis and Mirza won. In the final set, Makarova and Vesnina broke in the third game. But Hingis and Mirza broke in the ninth game to get back on serve. After Hingis and Mirza held in the 10th game, there was a brief pause in the match as the tournament officials closed the roof on Centre Court. When both teams returned to Centre Court, the Swiss-Miss Indian duo broke the Russians in the 11th game and successfully served out the match to love in the 12th game to win their first Grand Slam title as a team. Makarova and Vesnina were the favorites to win the title. But they looked too much ahead towards the finish line when they served for the match. This is where Hingis and Mirza did an excellent job in maintain calmness and composure throughout the entire match. Even though it looked like they would lose the match in the ninth game of the final set, they showed no signs of negativity.

# **2015 US OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

20-time Grand Slam Champion Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) is an all-court, all-around player. He has speed, a fluid style of play, and exceptional shot making. He is a primary baseline player. But he is also one of the best volleyers in the game when he plays well at the net. His best surfaces are hard and grass. His ability to use the ball’s speed against his opponent, makes him ideally suited to quick play. He is also one of the all-time great attacking players on court. He won six Australian Open titles [2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2017, 2018], one French Open title [2009], eight Wimbledon titles [2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2017], and five US Open titles [2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008].

1. Leonardo Mayer (ARGENTINA): 6-1 6-2 6-2
   1. 12 aces
   2. Five double faults
   3. 29 winners
   4. 13 unforced errors
2. Steve Darcis (BELGIUM): 6-1 6-2 6-1
   1. 11 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 46 winners
   4. 25 unforced errors
3. Philipp Kohlschreiber: 6-3 6-4 6-4
   1. Five aces
   2. Four double faults
   3. 27 winners
   4. 26 unforced errors
4. John Isner (USA): 7-6[7-0] 7-6[8-6] 7-5
   1. 15 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 55 winners
   4. 16 unforced errors
5. Richard Gasquet (FRANCE): 6-3 6-3 6-1
   1. 16 aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 50 winners
   4. 21 unforced errors
6. Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND): 6-4 6-3 6-1
   1. 10 aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 29 winners
   4. 17 unforced errors

Federer was in flourishing form when he reached the 2015 US Open final without dropping a set. In six matches, he crushed 69 aces and 236 winners. Those aces and winners outnumbered 15 double faults and 118 unforced errors. He maintained positive ratios in the aces-double faults and winners-unforced errors categories. His run set him up with a marathon final with 17-time Grand Slam Champion Novak Djokovic (SERBIA). Like Serena, Djokovic is also a primary baseline player. His movement lets him hit winners from defensive positions. His groundstrokes are consistent and deep. His best weapon is his backhand. In the first set, both players traded breaks in the third and fourth games. Then, Djokovic broke Federer in the seventh game. In the second set, both players traded service holds for the first 11 games. Then, Federer broke in the 12th game to win the second set. Just like the first set, the third set started off in the same fashion. Then, Djokovic broke in the ninth game. In the fourth set, Djokovic broke Federer in the first and seventh games. This was followed by a break in the ninth game. Despite the loss, Federer still maintained his positive ratios of 11 aces, five double faults, 56 winners, and 54 unforced errors.

# **2015 WTA FINALS – WOMEN’S DOUBLES**

After Hingis and Mirza won Wimbledon, they won a second Grand Slam title at the US Open. Then, they went undefeated for the rest of the year when they won four more titles in Guangzhou, Wuhan, Beijing, and the WTA Finals. When they won Beijing, they secured the top spot at the WTA Finals. To qualify for the WTA Finals, players compete in WTA tournaments and the four Grand Slams. Based on their results, they earn points on the Race to the WTA Finals. The top eight singles players and doubles teams qualify at the end of the year for the WTA Finals. The players participate in a round-robin format in two groups of four. The winners and runners-ups of each group move ahead to the semifinals. In this edition, Hingis and Mirza won the title without losing a set:

**ROUND-ROBIN**

1. Kops-Jones/Spears: 6-4 6-2
2. Hlaváčková/Lucie Hradecká (CZECH REPUBLIC): 6-3 6-4
3. Babos/Mladenovic: 6-4 7-5

**SEMIFINALS**

Angel Chan/Latisha Chan: 6-4 6-2

**FINAL**

Garbiñe Muguruza (SPAIN)/Carla Suárez Navarro (SPAIN): 6-0 6-3

I chose to focus on Hingis and Mirza’s third round-robin match against Babos and Mladenovic. Babos has aggressive style of play with mix of shots. She can throw in slices and drop-shots. Mladenovic is an all-court player. Her forehand is her strongest weapon. Her backhand is also a solid shot because she can use it as a slice. In this match, Hingis and Mirza received serve. In the first set, both teams traded service holds for the first eight games. Then, Hingis and Mirza broke in the ninth game. The second set started off the same way. However, Hingis and Mirza broke in the 11th game.

# **2016 AUSTRALIAN OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Serena won the Australian Open in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2015. But one year later, she achieved a rare feat:

1. Camila Giorgi (ITALY): 6-4 7-5
   1. Nines aces
   2. Two double faults
2. Hsieh: 6-1 6-2
   1. Seven aces
   2. Three double faults
3. Daria Kasatkina (RUSSIA): 6-1 6-1
   1. Six aces
   2. Zero double faults
4. Margarita Gasparyan (RUSSIA): 6-2 6-1
   1. Three aces
   2. One double fault
5. Sharapova: 6-4 6-1
   1. 12 aces
   2. Three double faults
6. Aga Radwańska: 6-0 6-4
   1. Eight aces
   2. One double fault

For the first time in her career, Serena reached the 2016 Australian Open final without dropping a set. She lost only 26 games in six matches and crushed 45 aces. Those 45 aces were outnumbered by only 10 double faults. She served no more than three double faults per match.

Serena had a tough first-round match against Giorgi. Like Serena, Giorgi is also a baseline player with an aggressive playing style. She possesses powerful groundstrokes. Her strongest groundstroke is her two-handed backhand because she can hit winners from any position on court. She hits the ball with power and is one of the hardest hitters. Serena received served in this match. In the first set, Serena broke in the third game and fifth games, then Giorgi broke in the sixth game. In the second set, both players traded service holds for the first 10 games. Then, Serena broke Giorgi in the 11th game and successfully served out the match to love in the 12th game.

Serena’s semifinal against Aga Radwańska was a tricky one. Aga Radwańska's game is founded on variety, mobility, and a tendency to anticipate her opponent's actions. Her nicknames are “The Magician”, “Ninja”, and “The Professor”, because she can pull off the most difficult shots in the game with ease. Her strongest weapons are a mix of slices and lobs. She can also hit the ball at different angles. She can also make use of a disguised drop shot. Just like her opener against Giorgi, Serena also received serve in this match. In the first set, Serena broke Aga Radwańska in the first game. In the second game, she lost her first service point. But she won the next four points. Serena broke in the third and fifth games and effectively served out the first set to love in the sixth game. In the second set, both players traded service holds for the first two games. Then, Serena broke in the third game. Aga Radwańska broke in the sixth game. But Serena broke Aga Radwańska in the ninth game. In the 10th game, Serena successfully served out the match to love with three consecutive aces and a backhand volley winner. This was the cleanest tennis Serena played. All eight of her aces came in the second set and her 42 winners were almost four times the number of her 17 unforced errors. Even though Serena lost to Kerber in a three-set final, she still did a good job of taking that loss into account. When these two faced each for the second time in the Wimbledon final, Serena magnificently turned this match around and she successfully avenged her loss to Kerber

# **2016 BNP PARIBAS OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Serena won Indian Wells in 1999 and 2001. Serena was scheduled to face her sister, Venus, in their 2001 semifinal match. But Venus withdrew because of an injury. The crowd booed Serena when she came out to play the final and continued to do so throughout the match. As a result, Serena boycotted the tournament for the next 14 years. But when she made her return in 2015, she reached the semifinals before she withdrew from the tournament. One year later, she went one step better:

1. Laura Siegemund (GERMANY): 6-2 6-1
2. Yulia Putintseva (KAZAKHSTAN): 7-6[7-2] 6-0
3. Kateryna Bondarenko (UKRAINE): 6-2 6-2
4. Simona Halep (ROMANIA): 6-4 6-3
5. Aga Radwańska: 6-4 7-6[7-1]

For the first time since 2001, Serena reached the final without dropping a set. Her resilience and courage to win each match in two sets clearly showed in her third-round, and semifinal matches.

In her third-round match against Putintseva, Serena was broken in the third and 11th games. Putintseva served for the first set twice in the 10th and 12th games, respectively. But Serena recovered to force a first-set tiebreak. Serena opened the tiebreak with a big forehand winner. Putintseva won the next point. But she lost three straight points to give Serena a marginal lead. Serena missed a backhand, but she recovered with a return winner to edge ahead by a double minibreak. Then, Putintseva missed two straight returns out in a row to give Serena the first-set tiebreak. In the second set, Serena broke Putintseva in the first, third, and fifth games. Then, she effectively served out the match to love in the sixth game.

In her semifinal match against Aga Radwańska, Aga Radwańska broke Serena in the first game. But Serena broke in the eighth and 10th games. In the second set, Serena broke in the second game. Then, Aga Radwańska broke in the fifth and 11th games. Serena broke in the 12th game to force a second-set tiebreak. Aga Radwańska earned the first minibreak on the first point. But Serena won seven straight points to win the match. Even though Serena lost to Azárenka in the championship match, Azárenka still praised Serena for her return to the tournament. “I wanted to address a personal thank you to Serena. I know how emotional it was for you to be back here. You truly inspire so many people out there. The type of commitment you have to the game is truly inspiring. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

# **2016 ITALIAN OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Serena won the title in 2002, 2013, and 2014. But in 2016, she won the title without losing a set:

1. Friedsam: 6-4 6-3
   1. Seven aces
   2. Two double faults
2. Christina McHale (USA): 7-6[9-7] 6-1
   1. Seven aces
   2. Three double faults
3. Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUSSIA): 6-2 6-0
   1. Five aces
   2. Three double faults
4. Irina-Camelia Begu (ROMANIA): 6-4 6-1
   1. Four aces
   2. Two double faults
5. Madison Keys (USA): 7-6[7-5] 6-3
   1. Four aces
   2. Two double faults

**AFTER** Serena’s win, the next title winners did **NOT** win **ANY** of their matches in straight sets **AT ALL**. Elina Svitolina (UKRAINE) won the title in 2017 and 2018. But she got pushed to three sets in her third-round matches. Karolína Plíšková dropped a set in her third round and quarterfinal matches in her 2019 title win. Then, the same happened for Halep in 2020 when she got pushed to a third set in her semifinal match against Muguruza.

# **2016 WIMBLEDON – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Kerber’s counterpunching form on grass was superb, mainly with her lefty forehand. She breezed through to her first Wimbledon final without dropping a set:

1. Laura Robson (GREAT BRITAIN): 6-2 6-2
2. Lepchenko: 6-1 6-4
3. Carina Witthöft (GERMANY): 7-6[13-11] 6-1
4. Misaki Doi (JAPAN): 6-3 6-1
5. Halep: 7-5 7-6[7-2]
6. Venus: 6-4 6-4

Kerber’s quarterfinal match against Halep had umpteen breaks of serve. In the first set, Kerber held to love in the first game. Then, both players traded breaks for the next eight games. Halep held in the 10th game and Kerber held to love in the 11th game. The 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Halep. Halep was serving to stay in the set **AND** force a first-set tiebreak. Halep lost her first service points before she won the next two points. But Kerber won the last three points to win the first set. In the second set, Kerber and Halep traded service holds for the first five games before they traded breaks for the next three games. Then, Halep held in the 10th game. In the 11th game, Kerber lost her first service point. But she won four of the next five points. The 12th game was another **MUST-HOLD** game for Halep. Halep was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. Halep lost her first service point. But she won the next four points. Halep earned the first minibreak on the first point. But Kerber won five of the next seven points to win the match.

In the semifinals against Venus, Kerber received serve. In the first set, Kerber broke Venus in the first, third, fifth, and seventh games. But Venus broke in the second, fourth, and eighth games. When Kerber served for the set in the 10th game, she lost her first service point. But she won four of the next five points to win the first set. In the first game of the second set, Venus won her first two service points. But Kerber won eight straight points to lead by a set and a break. When Kerber served out the match in the 10th game, she lost her first service point. But she won the last four points to set up a Grand Slam final rematch against Serena.

I chose to focus on Serena in the final. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first 11 games. The 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Kerber. Kerber was serving to stay in the set **AND** force a first-set tiebreak. Instead of forcing a first-set tiebreak, Kerber lost serve in the 12th game. The second set went on serve for the first six games. In the seventh game, Serena won her first service point before Kerber won the next two points. Serena found a big first serve. Next, Kerber earned abreak point when she forced a backhand error from Serena. But instead of losing serve, Serena struck two back-to-back aces to get to deuce and advantage on her serve, respectively. Then, she forced a backhand return error from Kerber. After she missed her lone break point opportunity in the seventh game, Kerber dropped serve in the eighth game. Then, Serena successfully served out the match to love in the ninth game. With her seven Wimbledon titles that she won in 2002, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, and 2016, Serena was undefeated on grass in each of those years with 49 wins and zero losses. She became a 22-time Grand Slam champion alongside Steffi Graf (GERMANY) **AND** the pressure was **FINALLY** off “I learned a valuable lesson, which I thought I learned at 18. But now, I learned that I cannot focus on that. I have to do the best that I can.” Since this milestone win, I think that this helped her out **BIG TIME**, as she was able to play more relaxed tennis, moving forward.

# **2016 ROGERS CUP – MEN’S SINGLES**

The Rogers Cup kicks off the US Open Series in Canada. The men and women take turns on playing in Montreal and Toronto. In 2016, the women played in Montreal, while the men played in Toronto. After her Wimbledon win, Serena was scheduled to play in Montreal. But before the tournament started, she withdrew from the tournament due to a shoulder injury. At first, I was saddened about her withdrawal. But after I watched some of the women’s matches, she was **FAR AWAY** from what was going on in this tournament! The women’s singles draw had umpteen breaks of serve, constant deciding third sets, **AND** persistent rain delays! In Toronto, Djokovic may not have played his best. But it was not his worst, either. He was the **ONLY** player in the singles draw to have **NOT** dropped a set all tournament:

1. Gilles Müller (LUXEMBOURG): 7-5 7-6[7-3]
2. Radek Štěpánek (CZECH REPUBLIC): 6-2 6-4
3. Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC): 7-6[8-6] 6-4
4. Gaël Monfils (FRANCE): 6-3 6-2
5. Kei Nishikori (JAPAN): 6-3 7-5

I chose to focus on the first set of Djokovic’s opening match against Müller. In this match, Djokovic received serve. 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 the next two points. But Djokovic won the next three points to break Müller. Then, Djokovic effectively served out the first set in the 12th game without facing a break point. Serena **ALSO** won the first set against Li in her 2010 Wimbledon quarterfinal match in this **SAME EXACT** fashion. But the differences were how each player broke serve in the 11th game and successfully served out the set in the 12th game.

# **2016 US OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

At the 2015 US Open, Serena lost a three-set semifinal to Roberta Vinci (ITALY). During that time, was trying to win all four Grand Slams in one year. Vinci’s upset win over Serena was considered the biggest upset of all times. But **AFTER** Serena’s 2016 Wimbledon win, I have seen **BIGGER** upsets at the Grand Slams to the current top 10 women’s players **NOT** named Serena! Even Serena’s bid for a 23rd Grand Slam title ended with a semifinal loss to Karolína Plíšková, she was still joyful. She said, “I kept telling myself, ‘Serena you have 22 – it’s really not that bad!’”. As painful as her 2016 US Open semifinal loss was, I think it gave her sureness for the upcoming 2017 Australian Open. When she announced her withdrawal from the WTA Finals, she was calm and all smiles in her video! Her 2016 season may not have been as strong as her 2015 season. But her emotional and mental strength were **SO MUCH BETTER** **AFTER** she won her 22nd Grand Slam title.

Like her Wimbledon run, Kerber reached her first US Open final without dropping a set:

1. Polona Hercog (SLOVENIA): 6-0 2-0
2. Mirjana Lučić-Baroni (CROATIA): 6-2 7-6[9-7]
3. Cici Bellis (USA): 6-1 6-1
4. Kvitová: 6-3 7-5
5. Vinci: 7-5 6-0
6. Wozniacki: 6-4 6-3

Kerber won her second Grand Slam with a three-set win over Karolína Plíšková. She held the year-end world number one ranking after Serena withdrew from the WTA Finals. At the WTA Finals, Kerber advanced to the finals. But Cibulková stunned Kerber to win the biggest title of her career.

# **2017 AUSTRALIAN OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

In 2017, Kerber was expected to display the form that helped her win two Grand Slams and an Olympic silver medal in her 2016 breakthrough season. When she came into the 2017 Australian Open, she was the world number one, top seed, and defending champion. She got pushed to three sets in her first two matches before scoring a third-round straight set win against a dangerous lefty and big Serena-like server in Karolína Plíšková’s twin sister, Kristýna Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC). But she lost to Vandeweghe in the fourth round.

When Serena came into the 2017 Australian Open, everyone felt that she was under pressure to break Graf’s record. Her 2016 US Open semifinal loss to Karolína Plíšková was described as a shocking loss. But I feel that loss would be shocking if she were **STILL** stuck on 21 Grand Slam titles **AND** **NEVER** tied Graf. Serena ended 2016 with two titles [Rome and Wimbledon], 38 wins, six losses, and a winning percentile range of 84%. I believe that she came into the 2017 Australian Open with **MORE** confidence [she had her 22nd Grand Slam title **UNDER** her belt] **AND** **LESS** pressure [she was only defending finalist points as the number two seed]. She won the title without dropping a set:

1. Belinda Bencic (SWITZERLAND): 6-4 6-3
2. Šafářová: 6-3 6-4
3. Gibbs: 6-1 6-3
4. Barbora Strýcová (CZECH REPUBLIC): 7-5 6-4
5. Jo Konta (GREAT BRITAIN): 6-2 6-3
6. Lučić-Baroni: 6-2 6-1
7. Venus: 6-4 6-4

In her fourth-round match against Strýcová, both players traded breaks for the first four games, then again in the seventh and eighth games. In the 11th game, Serena lost her first service point. But she won the next four points. The next 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Strýcová. Strýcová was serving to force a first-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the set. In the 12th game, Strýcová fought back to deuce from triple set point down. But Serena won the last two points to claim the first set. In the second set, Serena broke in the fourth game. Strýcová broke in the ninth game. In the 10th game, Strýcová lost her first service point before she won the next two points to reestablish her lead. Then Serena won the last three points to win the match.

Serena’s toughest match was in the quarterfinals against Konta. Konta was predicted to stun Serena. But Konta is someone **VENUS** faced before. I think Venus gave some really good tips to Serena on how to win this match in two sets. Serena shook off the rust and snapped her A-game into place to crush Konta in straight sets. When Serena advanced to the semifinals, Karolína Plíšková was Serena’s projected semifinal opponent. But Lučić-Baroni stunned Karolína Plíšková in a three-set quarterfinal match. This made Serena’s path to a 23rd Grand Slam title smoother. In her semifinal match against Lučić-Baroni, Serena received serve. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first two games before Serena broke in the third and fifth games. The second set started off the same way. In the seventh game, Serena won Lučić-Baroni’s first service point before Lučić-Baroni won the next two points. But Serena won the last three points to win the match. She kept a clean sheet of stats in this match with 14 winners, 10 unforced errors, and zero break points faced.

Serena’s win over Lučić-Baroni set up a marathon final with her sister, Venus. Serena received serve against Venus in the championship match. In the first set, there were four repeated breaks of serve. Venus held in the fifth game and Serena held in the sixth game. Then, Serena broke Venus in the seventh game. In the first set, neither Venus nor Serena got off to great starts. But Serena was the one, who was able to get back on track faster. Her first-set stats were seven aces, four double faults, 16 winners, and 14 unforced errors. In the second set, she cleaned up her game with three aces, one double fault, 11 winners, and nine unforced errors. Venus and Serena traded service holds for the first six games before Serena broke in the seventh game. She became the oldest woman to win a Grand Slam title, won two Grand Slam titles seven times [Australian Open and Wimbledon] each, and recaptured the world number one ranking from Kerber.

Three months later, Serena and her hubby, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, announced that she was 20 weeks pregnant with their daughter, Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. I could not believe that she won her 23rd Grand Slam title **WITHOUT** dropping a set **WHILE** she was eight weeks pregnant! She admitted that she was unsure if she wanted to play due to the health risks. But fortunately, she modified her normal playing style. When she revealed her pregnancy to Mouratoglou, she told him that she wanted him to wait for her so she could make her comeback on the tour. Mouratoglou said, “She said to me she didn’t want to lose her touch. Of course, she went slow, but she wanted to hit the ball.” Serena said, “When I come back to tennis, it’ll be better if I’ve kept as fit as possible all the way through the pregnancy rather than having to lose a lot of weight afterwards in order to get fit again.” Serena gave birth to her daughter on September 1st. Her daughter was born 100% healthy at six pounds and 14 ounces. Six months later, she made her comeback. She may not be ranked number one in the world. But even at 39 years old, she is still going strong with 843 wins, 146 losses, and a winning percentile range of 83%.

# **2017 FRENCH OPEN – MIXED DOUBLES**

Gaby Dabrowski (CANADA) started a partnership with Rohan Bopanna (INDIA). Neither one of them won a Grand Slam title in their careers. But they were the **ONLY** team in the **ENTIRE** doubles draws to have **NOT** dropped a set all tournament:

1. Jessica Moore (AUSTRALIA)/Matt Reid (AUSTRALIA): 6-0 6-1
   1. Five aces
   2. One double fault
2. Chloé Paquet (FRANCE)/Paire: 6-3 6-2
   1. Two aces
   2. Zero double faults
3. Mirza/Ivan Dodig (CROATIA): 6-3 6-4
   1. Six aces
   2. Two double faults
4. Hlaváčková/Roger-Vasselin: 7-5 6-3
   1. Five aces
   2. One double fault

Dabrowski and Bopanna faced Robert Farah (COLOMBIA) and Anna-Lena Grönefeld (GERMANY) in the championship match. In the first set, Farah and Grönefeld broke in the first and seventh games. In the second set, Farah and Grönefeld broke in the third game. But Dabrowski and Bopanna broke in the fourth, sixth, and eighth games to win the second set. Dabrowski and Bopanna won the title after Farah and Grönefeld double faulted on championship point in the match tiebreak.

# **2017 BB&T ATLANTA OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

Isner has a powerful, consistent serve. The number of aces he serves per match is in double digits. This helped him win the title without dropping a set:

1. Vasek Pospisil (CANADA): 6-3 6-4
   1. Ten aces
   2. One double fault
2. Lukáš Lacko (SLOVAKIA): 7-5 6-4
   1. 13 aces
   2. Zero double faults
3. Müller: 6-4 6-2
   1. 15 aces
   2. Five double faults
4. Ryan Harrison (USA): 7-6[8-6] 7-6[9-7]
   1. 23 aces
   2. One double fault

In his quarterfinal match against Lacko, Isner received serve. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first ten games. Then, Lacko dropped serve at love in the 11th game. In the 12th game, Isner won his first two service points before Lacko won the next point. Then, Isner won his last two service points. In the second set, the first eight games went on serve. In the ninth game, Lacko won his first two service points. But he lost four straight points to drop serve. In the 10th game, Isner successfully served out the match the same way as he did in the 12th game of the first set.

# **2018 AUSTRALIAN OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES + MIXED DOUBLES**

Federer won the Australian Open in 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2017, and 2018. But in 2018, he was the **ONLY** player in the singles draw to have **NOT** dropped a set all tournament:

1. Aljaž Bedene (SLOVENIA): 6-3 6-4 6-3
   1. 11 aces
   2. Three double faults
   3. 41 winners
   4. 32 unforced errors
2. Jan-Lennard Struff (GERMANY): 6-4 6-4 7-6[7-4]
   1. 15 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 36 winners
   4. 22 unforced errors
3. Gasquet: 6-2 7-5 6-4
   1. 10 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 42 winners
   4. 30 unforced errors
4. Márton Fucsovics (HUNGARY): 6-4 7-6[7-3] 6-2
   1. Six aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 34 winners
   4. 28 unforced errors
5. Berdych: 7-6[7-1] 6-3 6-4
   1. 13 aces
   2. Five double faults
   3. 61 winners
   4. 30 unforced errors
6. Hyeon Chung (SOUTH KOREA): 6-1 5-2
   1. Nine aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 24 winners
   4. 15 unforced errors

Federer and his opponent, Marin Čilić (CROATIA), treated Rod Laver Arena to a five-set final. In the first set, Federer broke Čilić in the first and third games. In the second set, both players traded service holds for all 12 games, which went into a tiebreak. Čilić won the second-set tiebreak with a minibreak. In the third set, Federer broke in the sixth game. In the first game of the fourth set, Federer broke Čilić in the first game. But Čilić broke in the sixth and eighth games. Then, he effectively served out the set to love in the ninth game. In the fifth set, Federer broke Čilić in the second game. Despite the loss, Čilić’s brave fight earned the praise from Federer. “He’s professional. He is very much the same regardless of whether he wins or loses. I like that attitude.”

Dabrowski started a partnership with Mate Pavić (CROATIA). They never played together in any Grand Slams. But they reached their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set **OR** having their serve broken:

1. Lizette Cabrera (AUSTRALIA)/Alex Bolt (AUSTRALIA): 6-3 7-5
   1. Seven aces
   2. Two double faults
2. Demi Schuurs (NETHERLANDS)/Jean-Julien Rojer (NETHERLANDS): 6-1 6-3
   1. Six aces
   2. Two double faults
3. Matwé Middelkoop (NETHERLANDS)/Johanna Larsson (SWEDEN): 6-3 7-6[7-0]
   1. Three aces
   2. One double fault
4. Bruno Soares (BRAZIL)/Makarova: 6-1 6-4
   1. Three aces
   2. Zero double faults

Pavić and Dabrowski faced Babos and Bopanna in the finals. In the first set, Babos and Bopanna broke in the fourth and eighth games. In the second set, Pavić and Dabrowski broke in the seventh game. In the match tiebreak, both teams traded minibreaks. But Pavić crushed down two back-to-back consecutive aces and hit a forehand return winner to clinch the title.

# **2018 STUTTGART OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

Milos Raonic (CANADA) has a powerful, accurate serve. This helped him reach the Stuttgart Open final without dropping a set **OR** serve:

1. Mirza Bašić (BOSNIA): 7-6[10-8] 6-2
   1. 15 aces
   2. Four double faults
2. Fucsovics: 6-2 6-4
   1. 19 aces
   2. Two double faults
3. Berdych: 7-6[7-2] 7-6[7-1]
   1. 22 aces
   2. Three double faults
4. Lucas Pouille (FRANCE): 6-4 7-6[7-3]
   1. 19 aces
   2. Two double faults

In the first set, Raonic and Federer traded service holds in the first two games before Federer broke Raonic in the third game. Raonic’s big serve helped him hold in the fifth, seventh, and ninth games. Then, Federer successfully served out the first set to love in the 10th game. There were no breaks of serve in the second set and Federer won the second set tiebreak.

# **2019 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Lesia Tsurenko (UKRAINE) first played in Australia at the Brisbane International. Her level of tennis was incredible. She was able to reach the biggest final of her career without dropping a set:

1. Mihaela Buzărnescu (ROMANIA): 6-0 6-2
   1. Two aces
   2. Two double faults
2. Kimberly Birrell (AUSTRALIA): 6-4 6-3
   1. Five aces
   2. Three double faults
3. Anett Kontaveit (ESTONIA): 7-5 6-3
   1. Two aces
   2. One double fault
4. Naomi Osaka (JAPAN): 6-2 6-4
   1. Six aces
   2. Two double faults

Tsurenko received serve in her quarterfinal match against Kontaveit. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first seven games. Kontaveit broke Tsurenko in the eighth game. But Tsurenko broke in the ninth and 11th games Then, Tsurenko successfully served out the first set to love in the 12th game. In the second set, Tsurenko broke Kontaveit in the first and ninth games.

Just like her quarterfinal match against Kontaveit, Tsurenko received serve in her semifinal match against Osaka. In the first set, Tsurenko broke in the first game and seventh games. Tsurenko broke in the first game of the second set. But Osaka held in the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth games.

Tsurenko’s run in Brisbane set her up with a final against Karolína Plíšková. Tsurenko was not the favorite to win the title. But Karolína Plíšková’s form was shaky. She was down a set and a break in her opener against Putintseva. Then, Ajla Tomljanović (AUSTRALIA) pushed her to three sets in the quarterfinals. Karolína Plíšková won the title in three tight sets. Even though Tsurenko lost the match after she suffered a left ankle injury, she still put up a courageous fight. She broke Karolína Plíšková four times and her six aces were cleanly balanced out with only two double faults.

# **2019 AUSTRALIAN OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES + MEN’S SINGLES**

Kvitová won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014. Two years later, she was attacked during a break-in at her home in December 2016. She suffered injuries to her dominant left hand. The doctors said that she may not be able to ever play tennis again. But she overcame the obstacles to reach her first Australian Open final without dropping a set:

1. Rybáriková: 6-3 6-2
2. Begu: 6-1 6-3
3. Bencic: 6-1 6-4
4. Amanda Anisimova (USA): 6-2 6-1
5. Ashleigh Barty (AUSTRALIA): 6-1 6-4
6. Danielle Collins (USA): 7-6[7-2] 6-0

Kvitová’s run set her up with a thrilling final against Osaka. This was the first ever head-to-head meeting between these players. The world number one ranking was also on the line. Halep was world number one in 2018 as the Australian Open runner-up and French Open champion. But Serena sent Halep packing her bags in the fourth round. Since Halep could not defend her runner-up points from the previous year, the winner of this match would kick Halep off the top spot. The first set went on serve into a tiebreak, which Osaka won with a double minibreak. In the second set, Kvitová held in the first game and broke in the second game. Then, Osaka won four games in a row. Kvitová saved triple championship point in the ninth game. Osaka served for the match in the 10th game, but Kvitová broke with a backhand return. Then, Kvitová won two straight games to clinch the second set. In the third set, both players traded service holds for the first two games before Osaka broke in the third game. In the 10th game, Osaka raced out to triple match point before Kvitová saved the first one. Then, Osaka crushed down an ace to win the title.

Just like Serena, 20-time Grand Slam Champion Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) is also a primary baseline player. His lefty forehand lets him hit shots with heavy topspin. He can construct winners from offense and defense. His level is unreal on any surface, especially as a 13-time French Open Champion [2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020]. But he played his best tennis at the Australian Open, when he reached the final without dropping a set:

1. James Duckworth (AUSTRALIA): 6-4 6-3 7-5
2. Matthew Ebden (AUSTRALIA): 6-3 6-2 6-2
3. Alex de Minaur (AUSTRALIA): 6-1 6-2 6-4
4. Berdych: 6-0 6-1 7-6[7-4]
5. Frances Tiafoe (USA): 6-3 6-4 6-2
6. Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE): 6-2 6-4 6-0

Tsitsipas stunned Federer in a fourth-round four-setter, where he saved all 12 break points that he faced. But Nadal broke Tsitsipas in the third and seventh games of the first set. In the second set, Tsitsipas and Nadal traded service holds for the first eight games. In the ninth game, Tsitsipas won his opening service point. But he lost four of the last five points to drop serve. Then, Nadal effectively served out the second set to love in the 10th game. Tsurenko **ALSO** won her 2019 Brisbane International semifinal match against Osaka with this **SAME EXACT** scoreline. But the differences were the serving stats and key breaks. When Nadal positively served out the first set in the eighth game and the second set in the 10th game, these were the first 17 consecutive sets he won at the Australian Open. He was one set away from making it a perfect 18 for 18 on sets won. In the third set, Nadal broke Tsitsipas in the first game and held to love in the second game. Then, he broke Tsitsipas in the third game. In the fourth game, Tsitsipas won Nadal’s first service point. But Nadal won the next four points. In the fifth game, Tsitsipas dropped serve at love. When Nadal served for the match in the sixth game, he lost his first service point before he won the next two points. Tsitsipas won the next two points to earn his lone break point. But instead of losing serve, Nadal won the last three points with a backhand volley dropshot and two backhand return errors from Tsitsipas, respectively. Before this match began, people predicted that Tsitipas would force a fourth or fifth set against Nadal. But several people pointed out that Tsitsipas’s game matched up better with Federer’s than Nadal’s. This may be hard to believe. But I saw this match myself when Tsitsipas’s game escalated out of control with his erratic stats of five aces, two double faults, 17 winners, and 22 unforced errors. Fortunately for Nadal though, he kept his stats clean with five aces, zero double faults, 30 winners, and 14 unforced errors.

When Nadal set up a final against Djokovic, Rod Laver Arena was in for a thriller. Djokovic led the head-to-head in Grand Slam meetings against Nadal. But his form was patchy, as he got pushed to four sets in his third and fourth round matches. Even though Nadal lost to Djokovic in straight sets, Djokovic praised Nadal for his run. “Rafa was in great form, he hadn’t dropped a set the entire tournament. He played impressively well throughout the entire tournament. He played some of his best tennis on hard courts.”

# **2019 MIAMI OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

Isner won the Miami Open in 2018. He returned to the tournament one year later as the defending champion. Nine of the ten sets he played were tiebreakers. But his level in this edition of the tournament was impressive. He was the **ONLY** player to have **NOT** dropped a set alltournament:

1. Lorenzo Sonego (ITALY): 7-6[7-2] 7-6[9-7]
   1. 20 aces
   2. Three double faults
2. Albert Ramos Viñolas (SPAIN): 7-5 7-6[8-6]
   1. 16 aces
   2. Two double faults
3. Kyle Edmund (GREAT BRITAIN): 7-6[7-5] 7-6[7-3]
   1. 18 aces
   2. One double fault
4. Bautista Agut: 7-6[7-1] 7-6[7-5]
   1. 25 aces
   2. One double fault
5. Félix Auger-Aliassime (CANADA): 7-6[7-3] 7-6[7-4]
   1. 21 aces
   2. Two double faults

In the first set, Isner and Auger-Aliassime traded service holds for the first six games. Auger-Aliassime broke in the seventh game. Then, Isner broke in the 10th game. In the second set, the first five games of the second set went on serve. Auger-Aliassime broke in the sixth game. Then, Isner broke in the ninth game.

Even though Isner lost to Federer, he earned lots of praise from Federer. “John is a great player, a great person. He has got an amazing serve, one of the best in the game forever. I am a big fan of his game. I am excited to play John. He had a tough match against Felix. That was an awesome performance by him.”

# **2019 MUTUA MADRID OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Kiki Bertens (NETHERLANDS) became the first woman to win the title without dropping a set:

1. Siniaková: 6-3 6-2
2. Ostapenko: 6-4 6-3
3. Sevastova: 6-1 6-2
4. Kvitová: 6-2 6-3
5. Stephens: 6-2 7-5
6. Halep 6-4 6-4

In her semifinal match against Stephens, Bertens received serve. She broke in the first and fifth games. In the second set, Stephens broke Bertens in the sixth game. Then, Bertens broke Stephens in the seventh game. In the 10th game, Bertens was down triple set point. But she won five straight points. Then, she broke Stephens in the 11th game and effectively served out the match in the 12th game. This win set her up with a final against Halep.

Halep won four sets without dropping a game and lost only one set in her semifinal match to Bencic in a second-set tiebreak. Having won the title in 2016 and 2017, Halep was the heavy favorite to win her third Madrid title. But her semifinal win against Bencic was a 2-hour battle. Fortunately for Bertens though, she spent less time on court and had an earlier finish in her semifinal win against Stephens. The earlier finish gave her the opportunity to squeeze in recovery as much as possible. Just like her semifinal match against Stephens, Bertens received serve. Halep broke in the fourth and sixth games. But Bertens broke in the fifth, seventh, and ninth games. Once the second set started, Bertens was on a roll. She was broken only once in the fourth game of the second set. Then, she won the biggest title of her career.

# **2019 BIRMINGHAM CLASSIC – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

After winning her first Grand Slam title at the French Open, Barty became the number one player in the world after she won the Birmingham Classic without dropping a set:

1. Donna Vekić (CROATIA): 6-3 6-4
2. Jennifer Brady (USA): 6-3 6-1
3. Venus: 6-4 6-3
4. Strýcová: 6-4 6-4
5. Julia Görges (GERMANY): 6-3 7-5

In the championship match, the first five games of the first set went on serve. Then, Barty broke Görges in the sixth game. In the second set, Görges broke in the second game. But Barty broke in the fifth and 11th games. Then, Barty successfully served out the match to love in the 12th game.

# **2019 WIMBLEDON – WOMEN’S DOUBLES**

Hsieh and Strýcová won Indian Wells, Dubai, Madrid, Birmingham, and Wimbledon. Hsieh can play two-handed on her forehand and backhand sides. Strýcová can maneuver around the court with serving and volleying. Wimbledon was their first Grand Slam title they won without dropping a set:

1. Mona Barthel (GERMANY)/Xenia Knoll (SWITZERLAND): 6-2 6-1
2. Ekaterina Alexandrova (RUSSIA)/Viktorija Golubic (SWITZERLAND): 6-2 6-2
3. Begu/Monica Niculescu (ROMANIA): 6-3 6-4
4. Aryna Sabalenka (BELARUS)/Elise Mertens (BELGIUM): 6-4 6-2
5. Babos/Mladenovic: 7-6[7-5] 6-4
6. Dabrowski/Yifan Xu (CHINA): 6-2 6-4

In the semifinals, both teams traded service holds for all 12 games. Babos and Mladenovic earned the first minibreak on the first point. But Hsieh and Strýcová earned their own minibreak lead and won the first set. In the second set, Hsieh and Strýcová broke Babos and Mladenovic in the first game. In the second game, Hsieh and Strýcová lost their first service point. But they won the next four points. This was the only break of serve in the match. Hsieh and Strýcová faced no break points **AND** had zero aces to zero double faults.

# **2019 ROLEX PARIS MASTERS – MEN’S SINGLES**

Djokovic won the title without dropping a set:

1. Corentin Moutet (FRANCE): 7-6[7-2] 6-4
2. Kyle Edmund (GREAT BRITAIN): 7-6[9-7] 6-1
3. Tsitsipas: 6-1 6-2
4. Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA): 7-6[7-5] 6-4
5. Shapovalov: 6-3 6-4

In his opener against Moutet, both players traded service holds for the first six games of the first set. Moutet broke in the seventh game. But Djokovic broke Moutet in the 10th game. The first set went into a tiebreak, which Djokovic won with a double minibreak. In the second set, Djokovic broke in the third and fifth games. Moutet broke in the sixth game. But Djokovic successfully served out the match to love in the 10th game.

In the semifinals against Dimitrov, both players traded service holds for all 12 games in the first set. Djokovic won the first-set tiebreak with a minibreak. In the second set, Djokovic broke Dimitrov in the fifth game. This was an **IDENTICAL MATCH** to Hsieh and Strýcová’s 2019 Wimbledon semifinal win against Babos and Mladenovic. But the only differences were the serving stats and the decisive break.

# **2020 ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

The Adelaide International is held at Adelaide’s Memorial Drive Tennis Centre as a tune-up tournament for the Australian Open. Dayana Yastremska (UKRAINE) reached the final without dropping a set:

1. Babos: 7-5 6-3
2. Kerber: 6-3 2-0
3. Vekić: 6-4 6-3
4. Sabalenka: 6-4 7-6[7-4]

In her semifinal match against Sabalenka, Yastremska received serve. In the first set, Yastremska broke in the fifth game. In the second set, Yastremska broke in the first game. But Sabalenka broke in the sixth game. Then, Yastremska won the second set tie-break and the match. Even though Yastremska lost the championship match to Barty in straight sets, Barty still praised Yastremska for her run. “Dayana is an exceptional ball striker. She wants to be inside the court. She craves that court position and thrives when she's ahead.”

# **2020 ABIERTO MEXICANO TELCEL**

Leylah Fernandez (CANADA) was only 16 years old when she made her breakthrough in her junior career. During that time, she reached two junior Grand Slam finals without dropping a set:

**2019 AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

1. Kylie Collins (USA): 6-3 6-2
2. Moyuka Uchijima (JAPAN): 6-4 7-6[7-5]
3. Lisa Pigato (ITALY): 6-3 7-5
4. Manon Léonard (FRANCE): 6-3 6-1
5. Anastasia Tikhonova (RUSSIA): 6-1 6-3

**2019 FRENCH OPEN**

1. Mariia Tkacheva (RUSSIA): 7-5 6-3
2. Marta Custic (SPAIN): 6-0 6-3
3. Park So-hyun (SOUTH KOREA): 6-2 6-0
4. Elsa Jacquemot (FRANCE): 6-0 6-0
5. María Camila Osorio Serrano (COLOMBIA): 6-2 6-4
6. Emma Navarro (USA): 6-3 6-2

Fernandez lost the Australian Open final to Clara Tauson (DENMARK). But she won the French Open. One year later, she reached her first WTA Final without dropping a set:

**QUALIFYING**

1. Lizette Cabrera (AUSTRALIA): 6-3 6-1
2. Lepchenko: 6-3 6-3

**MAIN DRAW**

1. Nina Stojanović (SERBIA): 6-4 6-1
2. Nao Hibino (JAPAN): 6-3 6-0
3. Anatasia Potapova (RUSSIA): 6-3 7-5
4. Renata Zarazúa (MEXICO): 6-3 6-3

After making it through the qualifying draw into the main draw, Fernandez maintained her streak of 12 perfect sets won and zero sets lost. Even though she lost a three-set final to Heather Watson (GREAT BRITAIN), Watson still commended Fernandez for her run. “I think she’s going to have a great career ahead of her and rise up the rankings very quickly if she keeps playing like this.”

# **SERENA’S YTD STATS**

Serena is a consistent player with more wins, less losses, and solid winning percentile ranges. I thought it would be cool to collect her data, organize it in table, and analyze that data.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **TOURNAMENTS** | **TITLES** | **WINS** | **LOSSES** | **PERCENTAGE** |
| 1997 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 44% |
| 1998 | 11 | 0 | 29 | 11 | 62% |
| 1999 | 13 | 5 | 41 | 7 | 83% |
| 2000 | 11 | 3 | 37 | 8 | 78% |
| 2001 | 10 | 3 | 38 | 7 | 82% |
| 2002 | 13 | 8 | 56 | 5 | 91% |
| 2003 | 8 | 4 | 38 | 3 | 92% |
| 2004 | 12 | 2 | 39 | 9 | 77% |
| 2005 | 10 | 1 | 21 | 7 | 67% |
| 2006 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 67% |
| 2007 | 13 | 2 | 35 | 10 | 71% |
| 2008 | 13 | 4 | 44 | 8 | 82% |
| 2009 | 16 | 3 | 50 | 12 | 76% |
| 2010 | 6 | 2 | 25 | 4 | 84% |
| 2011 | 6 | 2 | 22 | 3 | 86% |
| 2012 | 15 | 7 | 58 | 4 | 93% |
| 2013 | 16 | 11 | 78 | 4 | 95% |
| 2014 | 16 | 7 | 52 | 8 | 85% |
| 2015 | 13 | 5 | 53 | 3 | 94% |
| 2016 | 8 | 2 | 38 | 6 | 84% |
| 2017 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 88% |
| 2018 | 7 | 0 | 18 | 6 | 67% |
| 2019 | 8 | 0 | 25 | 6 | 76% |
| 2020 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 5 | 71% |
| **SUM** | **242** | **73** | **843** | **146** | **83%** |
| **AVERAGE** | **10** | **3** | **35** | **6** | **83%** |
| **MINIMUM** | **2** | **0** | **8** | **1** | **88%** |
| **MAXIMUM** | **16** | **11** | **78** | **12** | **85%** |

I created two charts. The first chart I created was a clustered column chart for Serena’s YTD wins and losses. A clustered column chart compares values across categories.

The second chart I created was a line chart. A line chart is used to track changes over certain periods of time. I also added a trendline to my line chart. A trendline can tell me an upward slope or downward trend in my data to help me predict Serena’s future winning percentile ranges. I can see that Serena’s winning percentile ranges for 2021 and 2022 are between 80% and 90%.

# **SOURCES**

I hope my readers enjoyed reading about consistency! If you guys want to see more examples of this, feel free to watch these YouTube videos at your convenience!

# **2010 WIMBLEDON**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoDnsqnQ4Tc>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWsGFNBpWVE>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDuf1UOV5uY>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kwNu2HOZO8>
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pel7S0n3V_k>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsAdVyEXdV0>
7. <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7tc1qx>

**2011 US OPEN**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XojByvxPOBQ>

**2012 STANFORD**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG18HkIKghw>

**2012 OLYMPICS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMUjXz7TuFk>

**2013 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYWoiRt4U9Q>

# **2014 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qz1TNfLh-M>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=470YB7JivGo>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvLd7TNjO8k>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-iTgZeaP8s>

# **2014 US OPEN**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_N_1zPMgh2U>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7fCn_Y4yEk>

**2015 US OPEN**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=634UMLDrVzc>

**2015 WTA FINALS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALSJD_1tJ5o>

# **2016 AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1u8p2v0Zws>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yp5DCUib1nc>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZbYobSBwjM>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AimypuXJjFo>
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdBDPd7Lf8I>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FQkBD96usI>

**2016 WIMBLEDON**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGoI7rAzNTE>

**2017 AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlB4YvHyeoo>

# **2018 AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPWj01Q1Jx0>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BODJnANg4Xs>

**2019 AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ox8uWPCn0I>

**2019 MUTUA MADRID OPEN**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rx6k-yXL93M>

**2019 BIRMINGHAM CLASSIC**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PPNqLRkoG8>

# **2020 ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GL8DOgodemQ>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQ8gw1bh17w>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfdRJmrQb9s>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4QZBtnKPjg>

# **OFFICIAL TENNIS WEBSITES**

1. <https://www.atptour.com/>
2. <https://www.wtatennis.com/>
3. <https://ausopen.com/>
4. <https://www.rolandgarros.com/en-us/>
5. <https://www.wimbledon.com/>
6. <https://www.usopen.org/index.html>