  

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.

The Grand Slam tournaments are the four most important yearly tennis events. They offer the most ranking points, prize money, public and media attention, the greatest strength and size of field, and “best of” sets. The women play best of three sets, while the men play best of five sets. The Australian Open is played in mid-January, the French Open in late May to early June, Wimbledon in June-July, and the US Open in August–September. Each Grand Slam is played for two weeks. The Australian and US Open tournaments are played on hard courts, the French Open is played on clay, and Wimbledon is played on grass. Outside of the Grand Slams are the ATP [Association of Tennis Professionals] and WTA [Women's Tennis Association] tours. The ATP is the tennis tour for the men’s professional tennis tour, while the WTA is for the women. My favorite matches are from the Grand Slams and smaller tournaments on the ATP/WTA 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. She can take control of the rallies with her serve, return game, and groundstrokes. Her forehand and double-handed backhand are her sharpest weapons. She can also project terrific pace and placement with her serve. This helped her win the title without dropping a set:

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

Serena faced Larcher de Brito in the first round. Larcher de Brito is a baseline player with strong groundstrokes and movement. In this match, 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 the next two points to nab the early 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. In the second set, Serena broke Larcher de Brito in the first game. In the ninth game, Larcher de Brito lost her first two service points before she won the next two points. Serena earned her first match point. But Larcher de Brito won the next three points. Then, Serena successfully served out the match in the 10th game.

Serena faced Chakvetadze in the second round. Chakvetadze is a baseline defensive player. Her strengths are speed, court coverage, shot selection, anticipation, and footwork. Her fitness allows her to extend rallies until she could create an opportunity to hit a winner. Her best groundstroke shots are her forehand and backhand, both down the line. In this match, 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.

Serena faced Cibulková in the third-round. Cibulková possesses an aggressive playing style with speed, power, and deep groundstrokes. In the first set, Serena broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games. In the second set, the first 11 games went on serve. The 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Cibulková. Cibulková was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. In the 12th game, Cibulková won her first service point before Serena won the next two points. Cibulková won her next two service points for game point. Cibulková was one point away from forcing a second-set tiebreak. But Serena won the last three points of the match with two return winners and a forehand error from Cibulková.

Serena faced Sharapova in the fourth round. Sharapova is an aggressive baseline player with power, depth, and angles on her forehand and backhand. She has terrific speed on court with her height. Sharapova also has drop shots to her range. She can approach the net more frequently and finish points with delicate volleys. In the first set, Serena broke in the third game. Then, Sharapova broke in the fourth game. Serena saved four set points and claimed the first-set tiebreak. In the second set, Serena broke in the third game.

Serena faced Li in the quarterfinals. Li is an aggressive baseline player. Her game is created on her quick reflexes, athleticism, and powerful groundstrokes. Those components help her achieve precision, placement, and depth. Li’s crosscourt forehand is her favorite shot, but her backhand is the more consistent, reliable groundstroke. She possesses an exceptional backhand down-the-line. Just like her opener against Larcher de Brito, Serena also received serve in this match. 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 lost six straight points with two forehand errors, two consecutive double faults, and a forehand volley error. Consequently, Serena earned the break to serve for the first set in the 12th game. In the 12th game, Serena missed her first service point. But she won her last four service points to claim the first set. She crushed 13 winners to only five unforced errors and faced zero break points in the first set. Things could have tough for Serena if Li held to love in the 11th game. If that were the situation, then Serena would need to hold in the 12th game to force a first-set tiebreak. But when Li squandered triple game point on her serve, Serena did an excellent job to take advantage of Li’s dip in form. In the second set, Serena broke in the fifth, seventh, and ninth games to claim the match.

Serena faced Kvitová in the semifinals. Kvitová is known for her fast, well-placed serves. As a lefty, she can execute the shot perfectly by finishing off the point with a winner down the line. She is noted for her exceptional timing. On her forehand, she can take the ball early and produce down-the-line winners. She also possesses variety in her game. Her volleys tend to come more from her forehand. Because of her height, she can make up her speed by playing close to the baseline. In the first set, Serena was broken in the fifth game. But she broke in the eighth game. 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. In the second set, Serena broke in the fifth and seventh games.

Serena faced Zvonareva in the championship match. Zvonareva has a phenomenal backhand. She wins a lot of points with down-the-line and cross-court winners from that wing. She can also create angles with the shot or hit defensive high topspin shots when necessary. She can use her body to create pace. 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 claim 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**

Serena was away from the tour for 11 months. 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. This helped her book 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

Serena faced Wozniacki in the semifinals. Wozniacki’s playing style is based on her anticipation, movement, agility, footwork, and speed. She anticipates serves with her aggressive footwork. Her two-handed backhand is her best weapon, as she can turn defense into offense. Even though she has excellent footwork and anticipation, her forehand is weak because it lacks depth, power, and speed. That betrayed her against Serena in this match. In the first set, Serena broke in the fourth, sixth, and eighth games. This was followed by two more breaks in the third and 10th games in the second set. Serena’s serving stats were strong with three times the number of aces to double faults.

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

The Bank of the West takes place in Stanford, CA. It is the first tournament of the US Open Series. The US Open Series is a series of North American tennis tournaments that lead up to the US Open. In this edition of the tournament, Serena won the title without dropping a set:

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

Serena faced Vandeweghe in an all-American WTA final on home soil. Vandeweghe has a strong serve. She has an aggressive playing with a heavy forehand groundstroke. She is efficient at the net and can move forward to keep the rallies short. But her fitness and movement are her two weaknesses. In the first set, Serena broke in the second and fourth games. Then, Vandeweghe broke in the third, fifth, and seventh games. Vandeweghe had a set point in the 10th game. But Serena broke to get back on serve. 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 of the set. In the second set, Serena broke in the fourth game. When Serena served for the match in the ninth game, she lost her first service point. But she won her last four service points of the match.

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

The Summer Olympics is an international multi-sport event. They are normally held once every four years. The Games were first held in 1896 in Athens, Greece. In 2012, they were hosted in London. In that edition, Serena won her maiden Olympic gold medal 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, Serena broke in the second, fourth and sixth games to whitewash Wozniacki. In the second set, Wozniacki secured her first hold of the match in the second game. Then, Serena broke in the fourth game. 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 her last four service points with an ace and three service winners.

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

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 in the Australian Open series. It is held every year at the Queensland Tennis Center in Brisbane. Serena first played at this tournament in 2012. She won her opener against Jovanovski. Then, she withdrew from the tournament with a left ankle injury. But one year later in 2013, she won the title without dropping a set:

1. Varvara Lepchenko (USA): 6-2 6-1
   1. Five aces
   2. Three double faults
2. Alizé Cornet (FRANCE): 6-2 6-2
   1. Five aces
   2. Zero double faults
3. Sloane Stephens (USA): 6-4 6-3
   1. Five aces
   2. Two double faults
4. Pavlyuchenkova: 6-2 6-1
   1. Nine aces
   2. One double fault

Serena had positive ratios in the aces-double faults category. In four matches, she crushed 24 aces. Those 24 aces were outnumbered by only six double faults.

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

Serena won the title for the second straight year to become 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 faced Azárenka in the championship match. Azarenka is an aggressive baseline style with mobility. She has a strong two-handed backhand and return. Her game is based on aggression, which she uses to hit groundstrokes and winners.Her return makes her an excellent player to blend defense and offense together. In this match, Serena received serve. In the first set, Serena broke in the seventh game. In the second set, Serena broke Azárenka in the first game. Azárenka broke in the fourth and sixth games. Then, Serena broke in the seventh game. Serena lost her first two service points in the 10th game, but she won four straight service points. Then, Azárenka dropped serve in the 11th game. In the 12th game, Serena won her first two service points before Azárenka won the next point with a cross-court backhand winner. Then, Serena blasted down two service winners to claim the match. When Serena lost her first two service points in the 10th game, it seemed like Azárenka would force a third set. But after Serena won four straight points, those chances of a third set occurring became slim. From her opener in 2013 to the championship match in 2014, Serena became the **ONLY** woman to win the title two consecutive years in a row **WITHOUT** dropping a set both times. Her perfect streak was 16 sets won and zero sets lost.

# **2014 US OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

When Serena’s draw was released at the US Open, she originally had a tough path. She was slated to face Ivanovic in the quarterfinals and Kvitová in the semifinals. But ironically, her tricky draw ended up softening out to an easy one. After Ivanović and Kvitová lost in the second and third rounds respectively, the upset bug continued to bite the dust for the top 10 women’s seeds. Eventually, Serena was the highest seed and lone former champion remaining in the tournament. She was able to win the title without dropping a set:

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

Pennetta possesses an elegant playing style with sharp shots. In this quarterfinal match, Serena staged a breathtaking recovery. In the first set, Serena was broken in the first and the third games. It looked like Pennetta was on her way to winning the first four games against Serena. But Serena won four straight games when she broke in the fourth and sixth games and held to love in the seventh game. Then, Serena broke in the eighth game and successfully served out the first set in the ninth game. In the second set, Serena broke in the fifth and seventh games. Her stats were clean with seven aces, three double faults, 31 winners, and 19 unforced errors.

Serena plummeted Wozniacki in the championship match. In the first set, Serena broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games. Wozniacki broke in the third and fifth games. Wozniacki was only able to hold once in the eighth game. When Serena served for the first set in the ninth game, Wozniacki won Serena’s first service point. But Serena efficiently won her last four service points of the set. In the second set, Serena broke in the first and ninth games to win the title.

# **2015 FRENCH OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES + WOMEN’S DOUBLES**

Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC) plays left-handed with a two-handed backhand. Her forehand can produce lots to topspin. Her timing lets her project her groundstrokes with power. This helped her reach her first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

1. Pavlyuchenkova: 7-6[8-6] 7-6[11-9]
2. Kurumi Nara (JAPAN): 6-2 6-0
3. Sabine Lisicki (GERMANY): 6-3 7-6[7-2]
4. Sharapova: 7-6[7-3] 6-4
5. Garbiñe Muguruza: 7-6[7-3] 6-3
6. Ivanović: 7-5 7-5

Šafářová was on the ropes in her semifinal match against Ivanović. Ivanović is a baseline player with an aggressive playing style. Her strengths are her forehand, quick movement and net play. But this playing style betrayed her against Šafářová. In this match, Šafářová received serve. In the first set, Ivanović broke in the second game. But Šafářová broke in the ninth game when Ivanović served for the first set. The Serbian dropped serve again in the 11th game. Then, Šafářová successfully served out the first set to love. In the second set, Šafářová broke in the third game. Ivanović broke in the 10th game. But Šafářová broke in the 11th game to serve for the match. In the 12th game, Ivanović won Šafářová’s first service point with a cross-court forehand winner. But Šafářová successfully won four of her last five service points of the match.

Casey Dellacqua (AUSTRALIA) and Slava Shvedova (KAZAKHSTAN) formed a unique partnership with their playing styles. Dellacqua has a strong lefty forehand and can put spin on the ball at an angle. Meanwhile, Shvedova has efficient groundstrokes and proficiency at the net. This helped them reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

1. Chan Chin-Wei (CHINESE TAIPEI)/Lauren Davis (USA): 6-1 6-2
2. Cornet/Madga Linette (POLAND): 6-2 6-1
3. Caroline Garcia (FRANCE)/Katarina Srebotnik (SLOVENIA): 6-1 6-1
4. Krajicek/Barbora Strýcová (CZECH REPUBLIC): 6-3 7-5
5. Makarova/Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA): 6-3 6-2

The Australian-Kazakh duo played their best tennis in their semifinal match against Makarova and Vesnina. Makarova relies on power to set up passing shots. Meanwhile, Vesnina has an offensive baseline game. Her game revolves around controlling rallies. The Russians were the heavy favorites to win this match and the title. But I think experience is what 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, I deem that Shvedova knew what to expect from Vesnina. In the first set, both teams traded service holds for the first seven games. Then Dellacqua and Shvedova broke in the eighth game and successfully served out the first set to love in the ninth game. In the second set, the Australian-Kazakh duo broke the Russians twice and efficiently served out the match in the eighth game. In five matches, they dropped only 21 games and played zero tiebreaks.

# **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 anticipation, point construction, and court coverage. Meanwhile, Mirza is a baseline player with powerful groundstrokes on her forehand and volley. This helped them reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

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

The Swiss-Miss Indian duo faced Makarova and Vesnina in the championship match. In the first set, Makarova and Vesnina broke Hingis and Mirza in the first and 11th games and effectively served out the first set in the 12th game. In the second set, all 12 games went on serve. Then, Hingis and Mirza won the second-set tiebreak. In the final set, Makarova and Vesnina broke in the third game. But Hingis and Mirza broke in the ninth game. After Hingis and Mirza held in the 10th game, they broke the Russians in the 11th game and successfully served out the match to love in the 12th game. When Hingis and Mirza were asked about this incredible breathtaking come-from-behind win, Mirza said “All we said to each other was, ‘Make them win the match. Let them win the match, not for us to lose the match’, which means we had to put the ball inside the court, do the right things. If they still come out, serving unbelievable the whole match, we knew that at some point hopefully it was going to come down.”

# **2015 US OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

20-time Grand Slam Champion Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) is an all-around player. He has speed and fluidity. But he also has efficient, deceptively effortless movement and excellent footwork. This helped him reach the final without dropping a set:

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

In six matches, he crushed 69 aces and 236 winners. Those aces and winners outnumbered 15 double faults and 118 unforced errors. His run set him up with a final with 17-time Grand Slam Champion Novak Djokovic (SERBIA). Djokovic is a baseline player. His movement lets him hit winners from defensive positions. 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. Then, Federer broke in the ninth game. Despite the loss, Federer was full of positivity of his two week-run. “Felt great to be back in a US Open final after six years. I have had a wonderful two weeks, happy with my tennis. I enjoyed it and thought it was a great match. I think we walk away from it knowing more about our games and more about ourselves.” Djokovic also paid his respect to Federer too. “I have to share my admiration for Roger, everything he’s doing for tennis. It was a tough one tonight. I have a tremendous respect for Roger, an incredible record. Coming on court knowing you are playing against probably the best player in the game adds a little bit more pressure. I knew he was going to be aggressive. It was an incredible evening for me.”

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

The WTA Finals is played at the end of the year for the top-ranked players. To qualify for the WTA Finals, players compete in WTA tournaments and the four Grand Slams. Based on their results, they earn points on their ranking on the Race to the WTA Finals. The top eight singles players and doubles teams qualify for this event. The players participate in a round-robin format in two groups. The winners and runners-ups of each group advance to the semifinals. Hingis and Mirza secured the top spot when they won the US Open, Guangzhou, Wuhan, and Beijing. At the WTA Finals, they won all their matches in straight sets to claim the biggest title of their careers:

**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 playing style with a mix of shots. She can throw some variations with slices and drop-shots. She uses her doubles skills at the net to try and reach winners to her best ability. Meanwhile, Mladenovic employs an all-court playing style. Her forehand is her strongest wing, which she can hit both flat and with topspin. Her doubles skills helped her develop a strong net game. She uses her volleys, backhand slice and drop shots to create variety in her game. In this match, Hingis and Mirza received serve. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first eight games. Then, Hingis and Mirza broke in the ninth game and successfully served out the first set in the 10th game. The second set started off in the same fashion when all ten games went on serve. But this time, Hingis and Mirza broke in the 11th game and efficiently served out the match in the 12th 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 dropped only 26 games in six matches, her 45 aces outnumbered 10 double faults and she had no more than three double faults per match:

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

Serena had a tough first-round match against Giorgi. Giorgi is a baseline player with an aggressive playing style. She possesses powerful groundstrokes on her backhand. In this match, Serena received serve. In the first set, Serena broke in the third game and fifth games. Then Giorgi broke in the sixth game. In the second set, Serena broke in the 11th game and successfully served out the match to love in the 12th game.

Serena’s semifinal against Aga Radwańska was thorny. Aga Radwańska has the nicknames of “The Magician”, “Ninja” and “The Professor” because she can pull off challenging shots with smoothness. Her game is based on variety, mobility, and anticipation. Her weapons include slices and lobs. Just like her opener against Giorgi, Serena also received serve in this semifinal 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 efficiently served out the first set to love in the sixth game. In the second set, Serena broke in the third game. Aga Radwańska broke in the sixth game. But Serena broke in the ninth game and successfully served out the match to love in the 10th game.

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

The BNP Paribas Open is held in early- and mid-March at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, CA. The tournament is played on hard courts. The singles main draws have 96 players in a 128-player grid. The top 32 seeded players get a bye [a free pass] from the first round into the second round. Serena won Indian Wells in 1999 and 2001. She chose not to participate at the tournament for the next 14 years. She returned to the tournament in 2015 and reached the semifinals before she withdrew from the tournament. One year later in 2016, she won all her matches in two sets to book her place in the finals:

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]

Serena had a tough third-round match against Putintseva. Putintseva has an aggressive forehand shot as a baseline player. In the first set, Serena dropped serve in the third and 11th games. Putintseva served for the first set twice in the 10th and 12th games. But Serena dominated first-set tiebreak. In the second set, Serena broke Putintseva in the first, third, and fifth games. Then, she successfully 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. Aga Radwańska broke in the fifth and 11th games. Then, Serena broke in the 12th game. Aga Radwańska earned the first minibreak on the first point. But Serena won seven straight points.

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

The Italian Open is held in Rome, Italy. It is one of the most important clay tennis tournaments in the world. It is held during the second week of May as a tune-up tournament for the French Open. Serena said her favorite surface is clay because it gives her time to set up her shots. 13 of her 73 WTA titles came on the surface. She also won three of her 23 Grand Slam titles at the French Open in 2002, 2013, and 2015. She made strives to improve her game on the surface.

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

Serena became the onlywoman to recentlywin this title without dropping a set. Her aces-double faults ratio was positive in each match. In five matches, she crushed 27 aces. Those 27 aces were outnumbered by only 12 double faults.

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

Kerber is a defensive baseline player. She has a counterpunching style, which lets her hit low-risk winners. Her powerful groundstrokes allow her to hit winners from defense. She can hit her forehand with disguise and speed. She can also create intense angles with her forehand, which is accountable for the winners she accumulates on court. Her backhand generates power to create sharp angles on the court. This helped her breeze 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 Williams (USA): 6-4 6-4

Kerber had a tough quarterfinal match against Halep. Halep is an aggressive baseline player with superb defensive skills and court coverage. She can hit winners cross-court and down-the-line. 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 point, then won the next two points. But Kerber won the last three points of the set. In the second set, Kerber and Halep traded service holds for the first five 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 last seven points of the match.

Kerber had a tricky semifinal match against Serena’s older sister, Venus. Venus is an aggressive player with an all-court game. She hits powerful, topspin groundstrokes on her forehand and backhand. In the first set, Kerber broke Venus in the first, third, fifth, and seventh games. Then, 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 last five points of the set. In the first game of the second set, Venus won her first two service points. But Kerber won eight straight points. When Kerber served out the match in the 10th game, she lost her first service point. But she won the last four points of the match to set up a championship match with Serena.

I chose to focus on Serena in the final. When Serena lost to Kerber in the 2016 Australian Open final, she sprayed 46 unforced errors and won under 50% of her points at the net. But at Wimbledon, she brilliantly turned that match around and successfully avenged her loss to Kerber. She was sharper and extra prepared for Kerber’s defensive game. 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. But instead of being forced to a first-set tiebreak, Serena broke in the 12th game to win the first set. 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 points. Serena found a big first serve on the next point. Then, Kerber earned abreak point with a backhand error from Serena. But instead of losing serve, Serena belted down two back-to-back aces and forced a backhand error from Kerber. After she missed her lone break point opportunity in the seventh game, Kerber lost serve in the eighth game. Then, Serena efficiently served out the match to love in the ninth game. Serena became a 22-time Grand Slam champion alongside Steffi Graf (GERMANY). Her seven Wimbledon titles in 2002, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, and 2016 extended her perfect winning streak on grass to 49 wins and zero losses. When she was asked about her 22nd Grand Slam title victory in an interview with the tennis channel, she was calmer and composed. “I thought I learned a valuable lesson, which I thought I learned at 18. But now I learned I cannot think about that. I have to do the best that I can.” After Serena tied Graf, I feel she was able to play more relaxed tennis, moving forward.

# **2016 ROGERS CUP – MEN’S SINGLES**

The Rogers Cup is held in Canada. It is a tune-up tournament that leads up to the US Open. This event rotates each year between Montreal and Toronto. The Rogers Cup kicks off the US Open Series in Canada. Djokovic’s 2016 season saw him winning the Australian Open, Indian Wells, Miami, and the French Open. In that year, he also won this title without dropping a set:

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 just on the first set of Djokovic’s opening match against Müller. Müller has a powerful left-handed serve and superb net skills. In this match, Djokovic received serve. In the first set, the first 10 games went on serve. In the 11th game, Müller lost his first service point, then won the next two points. But Djokovic three straight points on Müller’s serve. Then, Djokovic effectively served out the first set in the 12th game. He faced no break points in the first set. I was enthralled, because Serena **ALSO** won the first set against Li in her 2010 Wimbledon quarterfinal match in this **SAME EXACT** manner. But the lone difference was how each of these players broke serve in the 11th game and positively served out the first set in the 12th game.

# **2016 US OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Kerber exhibited stamina to survive tough battles and adapted a sense to play with freedom. She was able to rely on her accuracy, recovery and counterpunching to pull herself through every match.

This helped her reach the 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. Roberta Vinci (ITALY): 7-5 6-0
6. Wozniacki: 6-4 6-3

Kerber utilized patience and power to defeat Vinci in straight sets. Vinci has ability at the net and persistent use of the backhand slice. In the first set, Vinci broke in the first, fifth, and ninth games. But Kerber broke in the second, sixth, 10th and 12th games to claim the first set. In the second set, Kerber won all six games to seal the match.

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

Serena was expected to bag a 23rd Grand Slam title at the 2016 US Open. However, she lost in the semifinals. At the Australian Open, many people felt that she was under pressure to win her 23rd Grand Slam title. But she was moreconfident andunder lesspressure with her 22nd Grand Slam title underher belt. This helped her win the title without dropping a set:

1. Belinda Bencic (SWITZERLAND): 6-4 6-3
2. Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC): 6-3 6-4
3. Gibbs: 6-1 6-3
4. Strýcová: 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

Serena’s draw expected her to face the same woman, who trounced her in the 2016 US Open semifinals, Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC). Karolína Plíšková has an aggressive playing style with forceful groundstrokes. Her groundstrokes let her hit winners from any position. Her identical twin sister, Kristýna Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC), also portrays this style. But as a lefty, Kristýna Plíšková can string down-the-line winners with her lefty forehand and her serve is more powerful. Karolína Plíšková was a tournament favorite. But she lost to Lučić-Baroni in a three-set quarterfinal match. When Serena learned that Lučić-Baroni was her semifinal opponent, her path to a 23rd Grand Slam title was smoother. Lučić-Baroni is an aggressive baseline player. But the Croatian’s game crumbled. In this match, Serena received serve. In the first set, Serena broke in the third and seventh games. In the second set, Serena broke in the third, fifth, and seventh games to claim the match. Serena’s clean stats were zero breaks points faced, 14 winners, and 10 unforced errors.

The fans earned a first-class treat to an All-Williams final on Rod Laver Arena. Even though Serena had a tricky draw with no day of rest between her quarterfinal and semifinal matches, she won all 12 sets she played in six matches. Venus had an easier draw with a day off between all her matches. But the elder Williams sister got pushed to a third set in her semifinal win against Vandeweghe. Some people predicted that Venus would force Serena to a third set. But Venus’s 2.5-hour three-set semifinal win against Vandeweghe completely drained out her energy tank. As a result, Venus was no match for Serena. In this match, Serena received serve. In the first set, Serena broke in the first and third games. Then, Venus broke in the second and fourth games. Next, Serena secured another break in the seventh game. In the second set, Serena broke in the seventh game. Neither Venus nor Serena got off to ideal starts. But after Serena held in the sixth and eighth games of the first set, she was able to get back on track faster to secure the match in two sets.

# **2017 FRENCH OPEN – MIXED DOUBLES**

When I first wrote about the 2015 French Open and Wimbledon, something unique struck my mind. Two women’s doubles teams reached their first Grand Slam finals without dropping a set and never got pushed beyond a set of seven games to five into a tiebreak. But little did I realize that the same thing would reoccur at the 2017 French Open in the mixed doubles edition. Gaby Dabrowski (CANADA) has a playing style as an all-court player. She loves playing at net and incorporate elegance with touch shots. Meanwhile, Rohan Bopanna (INDIA) is an aggressive player. He has a serve-oriented game, that lets him use his big first serve to set up most points. Neither one of these players ever won a Grand Slam title in their careers. But their playing styles helped them reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

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

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

Isner has a powerful, consistent serve. He delivers huge serves when it counts and wins a vast majority of his service games. 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

Lacko primarily uses an offensive baseline playing style. His go-to shot is his backhand, which is taken with pace. He is known for his flair shots, including the lob and drop shot, both of which he can strike from any position. But his aggressive game can lead to a high number of unforced errors.

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

Federer was in vintage form at the Australian Open. His positive ratios in the aces-double faults and winners-unforced errors categories helped him reach the final without dropping a set:

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 faced Marin Čilić (CROATIA) in the championship match. Čilić is a baseline player with a big serve. In the first set, Federer broke in the first and third games. In the second set, all 12 games went on serve into a tiebreak. Čilić won the second-set tiebreak with a minibreak. In the third set, Federer broke in the sixth game. In the fourth set, Federer broke in the first game. But Čilić broke twice in the sixth and eighth games. Then, he successfully 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 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). Pavić is skilled in quick reflexes and movement at the net. His signature shot is his backhand volley. Not only is his movement explosive, but he can also change direction on a dime. This helped him and Dabrowski reach 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

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

Milos Raonic (CANADA) has a powerful, accurate serve. His serve helps him use an all-court style. 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

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

Lesia Tsurenko (UKRAINE) is a steadfast player. Her polished style gives her extra power. This helps her dominate the court. She was able to reach the final 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

Kontaveit has a fascinating playing style. She utilizes strokes that help her strike winners. She can adjust pace with a backhand slice or change direction in a rally. She is known for her speed at the baseline, which lets her hit running forehands. This part of her game pieced together with her successful coaching partnership with Nigel Sears (GREAT BRITAIN). In this match against Kontaveit, Tsurenko received serve. In the first set, Kontaveit broke Tsurenko in the eighth game. But Tsurenko broke in the ninth and 11th games. Then, Tsurenko positively served out the first set to love in the 12th game. In the first game of the second set, Kontaveit lost her first two service points before she found two big first serves. Then, Tsurenko won the next two points to earn the key break. In the second game, Tsurenko raced out to triple game point on her serve. Kontaveit saved the first two, but not the third. Then, Tsurenko broke in the ninth game to claim the match.

Osaka is an aggressive baseline player. Her forehand and serve are filled with power. She can use this hit soaring numbers of winners and win long rallies. But this playing style betrayed her. Just like her quarterfinal match against Kontaveit, Tsurenko also received serve in this match. In the first set, Tsurenko broke in the first and seventh games. In the second set, Tsurenko broke in the first game. This win set Tsurenko up with a final against Karolína Plíšková. Even though Tsurenko lost a three-set final after suffering a left ankle injury, her level of tennis was still great. She broke Karolína Plíšková four times out of six chances and her six aces were cleanly balanced out with only two double faults.

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

Kvitová was attacked during a break-in at her home in December 2016 and suffered injuries to her dominant left hand. The doctors said she may never play tennis again. But she reached her first Australian Open final without dropping a set:

1. Magdaléna Rybáriková (SLOVAKIA): 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 an exhilarating final against Osaka. The first set went on serve for all 12 games. Then, Osaka won the tiebreak with a double minibreak. In the second set, Kvitová broke in the second game. Then, Osaka broke in the fifth game. Afterwards, Kvitová broke in the 10th and 12th games to clinch the second set. In the third set, 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 squashed down an ace to win the title.

20-time Grand Slam Champion Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) is a baseline player. His lefty forehand lets him construct shots with serious topspin. He can create winners from offense and defense. His level is incredible 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 is a baseline player with a one-handed backhand. He defeated Federer in a fourth-round four-setter and saved all 12 break points that he faced. But the young Greek star was no match for Nadal when the Spaniard received serve in this match. In the first set, Nadal broke Tsitsipas in the third and seventh games. In the second set, Nadal broke in the ninth game. I was mesmerized by the scores in these first two sets. Tsurenko **ALSO** won her 2019 Brisbane International semifinal match against Osaka with this **SAME EXACT** score. In the third set, Nadal broke Tsitsipas in the first, third, and fifth games. 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 of the match with a backhand volley dropshot and two backhand return errors from Tsitsipas. His clean stats were five aces, zero double faults, 30 winners, and 14 unforced errors. Nadal’s run in Melbourne set him up with a marathon final against Djokovic. Even though Nadal lost to Djokovic in straight sets, Djokovic still praised Nadal for his run. “Rafa was in great form, he hadn’t dropped a set the entire tournament. He played some of his best tennis on hard courts.”

# **2019 MIAMI OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

Isner won all ten sets he played at the Miami Open. In five matches, he crushed 100 aces, which outnumbered nine double faults. He only lost serve once in the third round and twice in the semifinals:

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

Isner’s best tennis came in the semifinals against Auger-Aliassime. Auger-Aliassime has an all-court style and strong forehand. In the first set, Auger-Aliassime broke in the seventh game. Then, Isner broke in the 10th game and coasted through the first-set tiebreak. In the second set, Auger-Aliassime broke in the sixth game. But Isner broke in the ninth game and dominated the second-set tiebreak. Even though Isner lost to Federer in the championship match, Federer praised Isner for his run. “John is a great player and person. He has an amazing serve. I am a big fan of his game. He had a tough match against Felix. That was an awesome performance by him.”

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

Kiki Bertens (NETHERLANDS) has a crafty playing style. She can hit slices and drop shots with topspin. This helped her win the title without dropping a set:

1. Kateřina Siniaková (CZECH REPUBLIC): 6-3 6-2
2. Jeļena Ostapenko (LATVIA): 6-4 6-3
3. Anastasija Sevastova (LATVIA): 6-1 6-2
4. Kvitová: 6-2 6-3
5. Stephens: 6-2 7-5
6. Halep 6-4 6-4

Stephens is an all-court baseline player. She excels at turning defense into offense. She can hit powerful winners with her forehand. Her forehand is her best weapon and she can run around her backhand to play her forehand. But this style betrayed her. Bertens received serve against Stephens and broke in the first and fifth games. In the second set, Stephens broke in the sixth game. Then, Bertens broke in the seventh game. In the 10th game, Bertens saved triple set point. Then, she broke in the 11th game and successfully served out the match in the 12th game.

Halep was the heavy favorite to win the title. In her run, she won four sets without dropping a game. But her three-set semifinal win was a two-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 provided her the opportunity to squeeze in recovery as much as possible. Just like her semifinal match against Stephens, Bertens also received serve in the final against Halep. Halep broke in the fourth and sixth games. But Bertens broke in the fifth, seventh, and ninth games. She was broken only once in the fourth game of the second set. She dropped just 35 games in six matches.

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

Barty has an all-court game and crafty playing style. She can use her forehand to create sharp angles on cross-court shots. Her serve, backhand slice, and volley are her weapons. She cemented her place at the top of the WTA rankings as world number one 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

Barty faced Görges in the final. Görges produces topspin on her forehand. In the final, 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 formed a unique partnership with their playing styles. Hsieh plays two-handed on both groundstrokes. She incorporates slices, drop shots, lobs, and volleys. This gave her the nickname of “The Wizard”. But Strýcová primarily plays slices. They won their first Grand Slam title 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

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

Djokovic is a four-time champion of the Paris Masters. He won the title in 2009, 2013, 2014, and 2015. In 2019, he 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

Djokovic had a tricky opener against Moutet. Moutet’s lefty forehand makes him a solid defender. In the first set, Moutet broke in the seventh game. But Djokovic broke in the 10th game. Then, Djokovic secured the first-set tiebreak with a double minibreak. In the second set, Djokovic broke in the third and fifth games. But Moutet broke in the sixth game.

Djokovic had a risky semifinal match against Dimitrov. Dimitrov has athleticism and shot selection with his one-handed backhand. In the first set, both players traded service holds for all 12 games. Djokovic won the first-set tiebreak with a minibreak. In the second set, Djokovic broke Dimitrov in the fifth game.

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

The Adelaide International is held at Adelaide Memorial Drive Tennis Centre as an Australian Open tune-up tournament. Dayana Yastremska (UKRAINE) has incredible power. She has an attacking style with high numbers of winners. This helped her reach 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]

Sabalenka is a baseline player with a powerful serve. Even though Sabalenka accumulates winners, she comes unglued with unforced errors. Yastremska received serve in this match. 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.

# **2020 ABIERTO MEXICANO TELCEL**

Leylah Fernandez (CANADA) has grit and speed with her movement. She was only 16 years old when 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

Even though Fernandez lost the Australian Open final to Clara Tauson (DENMARK), 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

Fernandez set up with a championship match with Heather Watson (GREAT BRITAIN). Watson has a one-handed backhand slice. Even though Watson defeated Hernandez in a three-set final, she still praised Fernandez for her run. “Leylah is a great player. The thing I notice about her is the head on her shoulders. She is very mature for her age. I think she’s going to have a great career ahead of her and rise up the rankings very quickly.”

# **SERENA’S YTD STATS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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% |
| 2021 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 100% |
| **SUM** | **242** | **73** | **845** | **146** | **83%** |
| **AVERAGE** | **10** | **3** | **34** | **6** | **83%** |

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 in tennis! If you guys want to watch the highlights of these matches, please feel free to check out 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>

**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**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0I9orvBVVpQ>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nl-OuwEUHmg>

# **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>

**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 INTERNATIONAUX DE STRASBOURG**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcSkh2a5HmE>

**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>