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 contrasting times. I believe that the definition is a smooth fit in the sport of tennis.

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

# **SERENA WILLIAMS (USA)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2002 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Janković is a defensive baseline player and counterpuncher. She prefers to use her groundstrokes both down-the-line and crosscourt. When Serena faced Janković in the final, Janković broke in the third and ninth games. But Serena broke in the fourth, sixth, and 10th games to claim the first set. In the second set, Janković broke in the seventh game. The ninth game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Serena, because she was serving to stay in the set. Janković had triple set point on Serena’s serve in the ninth game. But Serena won five straight points and saved a set point on Janković’s serve in the 10th game to earn the break. After Serena held in the 11th game, it was now Janković’s turn to deal with a **MUST-HOLD** game in the 12th game, because the Serbian was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. In the 12th game, Janković won her first two service points, only for Serena to win three straight points to earn her first match point. Janković saved the first match point. But Serena won the last two points of the match.

**2010 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

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

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

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

Li is an aggressive baseliner, whose game is based on her quick reflexes, athleticism, precision, placement, and depth. Her crosscourt forehand is her strongest shot because she can hit this shot with accuracy and pace. She possesses an exceptional backhand down-the-line, which can effectively produce winners. She has a solid defensive game with footwork, speed, and movement. She can turn defense into offense when she hits well on the run. I chose to only focus on the first set of Li’s quarterfinal loss against Serena, when the American 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 Serena won five straight points to earn the decisive break to serve for the first set in the 12th game. In the 12th game, Serena lost her first service point. But she smoothly won four straight service points to easily close out the first set. Things could’ve been much more difficult for Serena if Li had been able to hold on to love in the 11th game. If that was the case, then the 12th game would’ve been a **MUST-HOLD** game for Serena, because she would be serving to force a first-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the first set. But Serena did an excellent job to extract five straight errors on Li’s serve at triple game point in the 11th game. The American crushed 13 winners to only five unforced errors and faced zero break points in the first set.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Silicon Valley Classic is held on the campus of San Jose State University in San Jose, CA. Since 1971, the tournament has been the oldest women’s-only tournament in the world and played on outdoor hardcourts. It is the first women’s tournament in the annual US Open Series. The US Open Series is a series of North American professional tennis tournaments that lead up to and include the US Open. The tournament was played in 1971 in San Francisco. It was sponsored by Bank of the West from 1992 to 2017 and held on the campus of Stanford University from 1997 to 2017. The event moved to San Jose State University in 2018 and was renamed as the Silicon Valley Classic. Vandeweghe has a strong serve. Her groundstrokes are hit heavy and flat, especially on her forehand. She is efficient at the net and enjoys moving forward to avoid extending the rallies. In the first set, Serena broke in the second and fourth games, while Vandweghe broke in the fifth and seventh games. The ninth game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Serena, because she was serving to stay in the first set. Vandeweghe won the first two points on Serena’s serve. But Serena won four straight service points, broke in the 10th game, and held in the 11th game. Now, it was Vandeweghe’s turn to deal with a **MUST-HOLD** game in the 12th game, because she was serving to force a first-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the first set. Vandeweghe lost her first service point before she won three straight points. But Serena won four straight points to claim the first set. This was followed by a break in the fourth game of the second set.

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

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

The Summer Olympic Games is a major international multi-sport event, normally held once every four years. It first took place in 1896 in Athens, Greece. The International Olympic Committee [IOC] organizes the Games and supervises the host city’s preparations. The tradition of awarding medals started in 1904. In each Olympic event, gold medals are awarded for first place, silver medals for second place, and bronze medals for third place. The tennis tournaments at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London were staged at the All-England Club in Wimbledon. This was the first Olympic grass court tournament since tennis was an Olympic sport and the first to be held at a Grand Slam venue in the Open Era. Serena became the first player to accomplish a Career Golden Slam in winning all four Grand Slams and an Olympic gold medal. I chose to focus on Serena’s quarterfinal win against Wozniacki. In the first set, the American whitewashed the Dane with breaks in the second, fourth, and sixth games. This was followed by a break in the fourth game of the second set. Wozniacki managed to raise her level when she injected pace and angles on her backhand wing. But her first serve percentage of 59%, first serve points won at 54%, and second serve points won at 22% showed the amount of trouble Serena gave her.

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

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

When Serena crushed Hlaváčková in the fourth round, this was a significant victory for the American. For the first time in her career, Serena scored a double bagel victory at the US Open. The American chose to receive serve in this match. Each set featured breaks in the first, third, and fifth games. She balanced out 31 winners with only seven unforced errors, threw down eight aces, and saved the lone break point that she faced.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2013 NATIONAL BANK OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This tournament was a tricky challenge for me to write about. But it was more of a fun challenge to see how I could write about it! Both the Williams sisters reached the semifinals without dropping a set. If Venus and Serena both won their semifinal matches in straight sets, I wouldn’t have been able to write about this tournament at all. When both the champion and runner-up reach finals without dropping a set, I can never decide who I want to write about, as I don’t want to pick any sides. So, to make it easy for myself and my readers, I chose not to write about those tournaments at all. Serena faced Lučić-Baroni in her semifinal match, while Venus encountered Vandeweghe. Serena successfully sailed through her semifinal win against Lučić-Baroni in straight sets. Serena earned two breaks in the third and fifth games of the first set and three breaks in the third, fifth and seventh games of the second set without facing any break points at all. On the opposite side though, Venus had to battle back from a first-set tiebreak deficit to come through against Vandeweghe in three sets. One stat I got was that Serena’s first set win against Lučić-Baroni was only 25 minutes, which was exactly half the amount of time of the 50-minute duration of Venus’s first-set tiebreak loss to Vandeweghe. Venus did have an easy draw with a day off in between all her matches. But even though Serena had a tough draw without a day off in between her quarterfinal and semifinal matches, she was able to secure all 12 sets she won in six matches. Regardless of who had the tougher or easier draws between the two sisters, I knew that this would be a straight set win for Serena, because she had the physical advantage of spending less time on court. When both the sisters faced off in an all-Williams final, neither Venus nor Serena got off to ideal starts with service breaks in the first four games of the first set. But once Serena secured her first service hold in the sixth game, she broke for the final time in the next seventh game and was able to get back on track faster. Then, Venus held in the fifth and ninth games. This was followed by another break in the seventh game of the second set. Even though Venus kept the deficit to a single break in each set, her second serve points won weren’t strong enough to navigate through easy service holds. It’s hard to tell how and why this was the case. But I do believe that the fatigue factor kicked in for Venus much quicker than I anticipated, because her three-set semifinal win against Vandeweghe was a two-hour grinder. So, that made me question how much energy she had left in the tank.

# **NOVAK DJOKOVIC (SERBIA)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **RAFAEL NADAL (SPAIN)**

# Nadal was born right-handed but plays left-handed. He has a baseline game that revolves around heavy topspin groundstrokes, speedy footwork, and persistent court coverage, which makes him an aggressive counterpuncher. His athleticism and speed make him an excellent defender, who can hit well on the run and construct winning shots from tough positions. He can play fine dropshots because his heavy topspin will frequently force his opponents to the back of the court. He can also be an offensive player when he stands closer to the baseline and takes the initiative in points. His forehand is a legendary shot and his strongest weapon. As a left-handed player, he can use tremendous topspin to get the ball into the backhand corner of right-handed players to make it difficult for them to act on his response. He uses his backhand as a rally shot to change the pace. Being ambidextrous gives him a strong crosscourt backhand and he can hit hard off both sides. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nadal’s run at the 2019 Australian Open was one of my favorites. Even though he came up short to Djokovic in the title match, I thought his level throughout the entire tournament was fantastic. He became one of the very few men’s singles tennis players to win all 18 sets they played in six matches in a Grand Slam. After Nadal accomplished the feat twice on clay at the French Open in 2007 and 2008 and once on the hard courts at the 2010 US Open, he replicated his strong form at the Australian Open nine years later. I chose to write about Nadal’s semifinal win against Tsitsipas. But one unique thing I’ll do differently is that I’ll highlight both Tsitsipas’s and Federer’s playing styles in this subheading.

Federer is an all-court, all-around player with speed, fluidity, and exceptional shot making. He primarily plays from the baseline but is also equally comfortable at the net. He has a powerful, accurate smash and effectively performs rare elements of his game, such as the backhand smash and skyhook, half-volley, jump smash [slam dunk] and an aggressive return known affectionately as the SABR [Sneak Attack by Roger], which is a half-volley attack on his opponent’s second serve. He has efficient movement and excellent footwork, which lets him run around shots directed to his backhand to hit an inside-out or inside-in forehand. He also has great variety with his forehand, because he can hit it with either topspin or pace. He uses a one-handed backhand with slice to bait his opponent to the net and deliver a passing shot. He sometimes uses a between-the-legs shot, which is either a “tweener” or “hotdog”. He can also use “squash shot” when he gets pushed deep and wide on his forehand wing. Even though he has numerous strengths, his biggest weakness is that his one-handed backhand can cause him to go for too much, too soon. He also has poor records in break point opportunity conversions. Like Federer, Tsitsipas is also an aggressive baseline player with an all-court playing style. He can use his forehand to finish points off his first serve and apply a high topspin rate to pull his opponents off court. But he also has several weaknesses in his game. His second serve lacks taste, his one-handed backhand causes him to overhit and make unforced errors while trying to go for winners too quickly, and he struggles to return serve against players with strong kick serves on their two-handed backhands.

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

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

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

When Tsitsipas defeated Federer in the fourth round, there was only one break of serve in the 12th game of the third set. All the remaining sets went into tiebreaks with no service breaks. But when Tsitsipas lost to Nadal in the semifinals, the stats told a separate story. Nadal got off to a quick start with two breaks in the third and seventh games of the first set. In the second set, Tsitsipas kept the score much closer and kept his nose in front until the seventh game. But after Nadal held in the eighth game, the Spaniard broke in the ninth game. This was followed by three more breaks in the first, third, and fifth games of the third set. I was curious to know how something like this could happen. But the answer was simple enough. No matter how hard Tsitsipas tried mixing up his service placement, coming to the net and using the angles on court to create openings, Nadal was simply much stronger in every department.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **KIM CLIJSTERS (BELGIUM)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2005 NATIONAL BANK OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **Iga Świątek (POLAND)**

Świątek has an all-court style playing style. She can incorporate variety in her game and primarily plays on offense. She plays with margin, and constructs points carefully until she creates an opportunity to hit a winner. Her strengths are her exceptional speed, movement, court coverage, footwork, and point construction. This helped her win multiple titles without dropping a set:

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

1. Round of 128 Markéta Vondroušová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Round of 64 Su-Wei Hsieh (CHINESE TAIPEI) Win 6-1 6-4
3. Round of 32 Genie Bouchard (CANADA) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Round of 16 Simona Halep (ROMANIA) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Quarterfinal Martina Trevisan (ITALY) Win 6-3 6-2
6. Semifinal Nadia Podoroska (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 6-1
7. Final Sonya Kenin (USA) Win 6-4 6-1

**2021 ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Madison Brengle (USA) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Round of 16 Maddison Inglis (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Danielle Collins (USA) Win 6-2 3-0 RETIRED
4. Semifinal Jil Teichmann (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Belinda Bencic (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-2 6-2

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

1. Round of 64 Viktorija Golubic (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-2 6-0
2. Round of 32 Madison Brengle (USA) Win 6-0 6-3
3. Round of 16 Coco Gauff (USA) Win 6-3 6-1
4. Quarterfinal Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-3
5. Semifinal Jessica Pegula (USA) Win 6-2 7-5
6. Final Naomi Osaka (JAPAN) Win 6-4 6-0

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

1. Round of 32 Elena-Gabriela Ruse (ROMANIA) Win6-3 6-0
2. Round of 16 Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-4 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Bianca Andreescu (CANADA) Win 7-6[2] 6-2
4. Semifinal Aryna Sabalenka (BELARUS) Win 6-2 6-1
5. Final Ons Jabeur (TUNISIA) Win 6-2 6-2

# **MARIA SHARAPOVA (RUSSIA)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **ANDY MURRAY (GREAT BRITAIN)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **ASHLEIGH BARTY (AUSTRALIA)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I may not have known about Barty as much as I did about Serena. But both ladies share a similar trait on how dominant they are in this sport as elite athletes. After Barty won her first WTA title in Malaysia in 2017, she slowly built her way up in 2018 with two titles in Nottingham and Zhuhai. Her 2019 season saw her win five titles across four different surfaces in Miami, Roland Garros, Birmingham, and the WTA Finals to cap off her season as the top number one player in the world. She carried this success into 2020 when she won her first title on home soil at the Adelaide International. After reaching the semifinals at the Australian Open and in Doha, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Tournaments either got canceled or played without fans. Nobody knew if the sport would ever return, let alone spectators. As a result, Barty decided to skip the rest of the year due because of her concerns related to travelling during the pandemic. Even with the change of criteria in the WTA rankings, she still finished as the year-end world number one for the second straight season. After taking 11 months off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Barty came back with a bang in 2021. She won a second title on home soil at the Yarra Valley Classic. She also replicated her 2019 season with four different titles on three different surfaces in Miami, Stuttgart, Wimbledon, and Cincinnati. After reaching the third round at the US Open, she decided to skip the rest of the season and came back to Australia to prep for the 2022 Australian Open. Despite the early exit, she still achieved the year-end world number one ranking for the third year in a row. When Barty came into the 2022 Australian Open, she was under pressure, because her world number one ranking was in contention with two other players and she was dealt a tough draw. But her tough draw became an easy one, because her opponents got sent packing their bags in the early rounds. As a result, Barty took advantage of the nonstop upset bug and won the title without dropping a set. Now, I will tell my readers – it is extremely rare that history can repeat itself like this when a player’s tough draw softens out to an easy one. But this did happen before at the 2014 US Open when Serena won the title without dropping a set, because she also dealt with the same situation as Barty. At the beginning of this subheading, I highlighted how Serena and Barty shared the same trait of simple pure dominance. When Barty won the 2021Cincinnati Masters without dropping a set, she was the best world number one we’ve had since Serena dominated at the top of the WTA rankings. But the meaning of dominance is something else. Excluding Serena, what I’ve seen from these women’s singles Grand Slam champions is a huge amount of confidence and very little ability. But Barty is the complete opposite. What I love about Barty is how she carries herself as a true champion on court. No matter what the result is, she never looks frustrated at all with her calmness and composure. She may look subdued. But she is a gift to the umpteen millions of tennis fans worldwide. After seeing both Serena’s and Barty’s dominances, these two women are going to be the ones to beat for centuries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **DANIIL MEDVEDEV (RUSSIA)**

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

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

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

**2019 NATIONAL BANK OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **SACSHA ZVEREV (GERMANY)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Collins has an aggressive playing style. She has a powerful serve and strong groundstrokes on both wings. Her greatest strengths are her kick serve, inside-out forehand, and versatile backhand. Her strong volleying skills let her hit winners from any position on court. In the first set, Collins earned the first break in the fifth game. Kvitová broke in the next sixth game and secured the first-set tiebreak with a double minibreak. This was followed by three more breaks in the first, third, and fifth games of the second set.

Osaka is a baseline player. She likes to control the game from the back court with her forehand. Her game revolves around her serve. She uses her forehand as an offensive weapon to control the rallies. Her backhand is a set-up shot for her forehand and an attacking weapon. I chose to write about the title match between Kvitová and Osaka, because it was one to remember forever. Whoever took the title home would replace Simona Halep (ROMANIA) as the world number one. Halep was the reigning world number one, 2018 Australian Open finalist and 2018 French Open champion. But Serena sent the Romanian in the fourth round and Halep lost the number one ranking permanently for good. When Kvitová and Osaka faced off in the title match, all 12 games of the first set went on serve, then Osaka won the first-set tiebreak with a double minibreak. In the second set, Kvitová broke in the second, 10th, and 12th games, while Osaka broke in the third and fifth games. Then, Osaka earned the lone break of the third set in the third game. Even though Kvitová came up short, she was able to vault herself back up to the second spot.

# **AGA Radwańska (POLAND)**

Radwańska is a clever tennis player. Her nicknames are “The Magician”, “Ninja” and “The Professor” because she can pull off difficult shots with ease. Her game has variety, mobility, and anticipation. She constructs rallies by opening the court up for a winner. Her main weapons are slices and lobs, along with her ability to hit the ball at a variety of angles. This helped her reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Round of 32 Aleksandra Krunić (SERBIA) Win6-4 6-3
2. Round of 16 Shuai Zhang (CHINA) Win 6-1 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Wang Qiang (CHINA) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Semifinal Anna-Lena Friedsam (GERMANY) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final Alison Riske-Amritraj (USA) Win 6-3 6-2

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

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

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

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

# **JANNIK SINNER (ITALY)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **KEI NISHIKORI (JAPAN)**

Nishikori is a primary baseline player. He uses his groundstrokes to push his opponents around and hit winners. He can create pace on his flat backhand and play defensively to wear out his opponents. He can take the ball early to take time away from his opponents. He is excellent at executing his return of serves, because of his quickness. He can hit winners off return of serves with strong, accurate groundstrokes. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2011 US MEN’S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Franko Škugor (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Igor Andreev (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Mardy Fish (USA) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Semifinal Pablo Cuevas (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 7-5
5. Final Ryan Sweeting (USA) Loss 6-4 7-6[3]

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

1. Round of 32 Illya Marchenko (UKRAINE) Win 6-4 7-5
2. Round of 16 Donald Young (USA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Win 6-4 6-2
4. Semifinal Marinko Matosevic (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 RETIRED
5. Final Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-2 6-3

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

1. Round of 32 Yūichi Sugita (JAPAN) Win 6-4 6-1
2. Round of 16 Benoît Paire (FRANCE) Win 6-3 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Richard Gasquet (FRANCE) Win 7-6[2] 6-1
5. Final Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Loss 6-2 6-4

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

1. Round of 16 Denis Kudla (USA) Win 7-5 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 7-5 7-5
3. Semifinal Jérémy Chardy (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Final Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 3-6 6-2

# **COCO GAUFF (USA)**

Gauff is an all-round player. She can mix and apply topspin to her shots in rallies. She can hit her backhand flat cross-court with terrific speed. She can also apply a slice on this shot. This helped her reach her first junior Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

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

1. Round of 64 Stefania Rogozińska Dzik (POLAND) Win 6-3 6-0
2. Round of 32 Sada Nahimana (BURUNDI) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Round of 16 Xinyu Wang (CHINA) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Quarterfinal Eléonora Molinaro (LUXEMBOURG) Win 6-2 7-6[1]
5. Semifinal Leylah Fernandez (CANADA) Win 6-4 6-3
6. Final Caty McNally (USA) Win 1-6 6-3 7-6[1]

Gauff started a partnership with Caty McNally (USA). McNally has a playing style with an all-court game and exceptional variety. She can use the serve-and-volley tactic and mix in the slice backhand. This helped them win multiple titles dropping a set:

**2019 WASHINGTON OPEN [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Zarina Diyas (KAZAKHSTAN)/Zhu Lin (CHINA) 6-3 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Yu-Chieh Hsieh (CHINESE TAIPEI)/You Xiaodi (CHINA) 6-0 6-3
3. Semifinal Miyu Kato (JAPAN)/Anna Kalinskaya (RUSSIA) 6-1 6-2
4. Final Fanny Stollár (HUNGARY)/Maria Sanchez (USA) 6-2 6-2

**2021 EMILIA-ROMAGNA OPEN [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Wang Yafan (CHINA)/Vivian Heisen (GERMANY) 6-2 6-0
2. Quarterfinal Makoto Ninomiya (JAPAN)/ Yang Zhaoxuan (CHINA) 6-0 6-1
3. Semifinal Alexa Guarachi (CHILE)/Desirae Krawczyk (USA) 7-5 7-6[4]
4. Final Andreja Klepač (SLOVENIA)/Darija Jurak (CROATIA) 6-3 6-2

The French Open is held at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris in late May each year. The tournament and venue are named after the French pilot, Roland Garros. The French Open is the highest clay court championship in the world and the only Grand Slam held on this surface. It is the second of the four yearly Grand Slam tournaments alongside the Australian Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. Gauff stunned the world with her poise and maturity to reach her first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

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

1. Round of 128 Rebecca Marino (CANADA) Win 7-5 6-0
2. Round of 64 Alison Van Uytvanck (BELGIUM) Win 6-1 7-6[4]
3. Round of 32 Kaia Kanepi (ESTONIA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Round of 16 Elise Mertens (BELGIUM) Win 6-4 6-0
5. Quarterfinal Sloane Stephens (USA) Win 7-5 6-2
6. Semifinal Martina Trevisan (ITALY) Win 6-3 6-1
7. Final Iga Świątek (POLAND) Loss 6-1 6-3

# **MATTEO BERRETTINI (ITALY)**

Berrettini is an all-court player with his strong serve and forehand. He likes to set up quick points and hit winners with aggression to put pressure on his opponents. His game lets him finish off points quickly with his serve-and-volley tactic. He has a blocked return and deploys his backhand slice to defuse aggression and keep the ball low to set up his forehand. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

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

1. Round of 16 Andrey Rublev (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Semifinal Jürgen Zopp (ESTONIA) Win 6-4 7-6[6]
4. Final Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 7-6[9] 6-4

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

1. Round of 32 Nick Kyrgios (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Round of 16 Karen Khachanov (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Denis Kudla (USA) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Jan-Lennard Struff (GERMANY) Win 6-4 7-5
5. Final Félix Auger-Aliassime (CANADA) Win 6-4 7-6[11]

**2021 QUEEN’S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS [CHAMPION]** **RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Stefano Travaglia (ITALY) Win 7-6[5] 7-6[4]
2. Round of 16 Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Daniel Evans (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-6[5] 6-3
4. Semifinal Alex De Minaur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 6-4
5. Final Cameron Norrie (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-4 6-7[5] 6-3

# **ANGELIQUE KERBER (GERMANY)**

Kerber is naturally right-handed but plays left-handed. She is a defensive baseline player with speed, agility, athleticism, and footwork. Her counterpunching playing style lets her extend the rallies and hit low-risk winners with ease. This helped her reach multiple finals without losing a set:

**2013 PAN PACIFIC OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 María-Teresa Torró-Flor (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Round of 16 Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Aga Radwańska (POLAND) Win 6-4 6-4
4. Semifinal Caroline Wozniacki (DENMARK) Win 6-4 7-6[5]
5. Final Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Loss 6-2 0-6 6-3

**2014 QATAR TOTAL OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-6[2] 6-4
2. Round of 16 Klára Koukalová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Petra Cetkovská (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-0
4. Semifinal Jelena Janković (SERBIA) Win 6-1 7-6[6]
5. Final Simona Halep (ROMANIA) Loss 6-2 6-3

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

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

Kerber’s toughest match of the tournament came in the quarterfinals against Halep. In the first set, Kerber held to love in the first game. Then, she broke in the second, fourth, sixth, and eighth games, while Halep broke in the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth games. Halep held once in the 10th game. This was followed by another love hold from Kerber in the 11th game. Then, Halep dropped serve in the 12th game to give Kerber the first set. In the second set, Kerber broke in the sixth and eighth games, while Halep broke in the seventh and ninth games. The 12th game was another **MUST-HOLD** game for Halep. But this time, Halep was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. Then, Kerber sealed the second-set tiebreak and the match with a double minibreak.

When Kerber faced Venus in the semifinals, the consecutive breaks of serve were still there in the first set for each player. But luckily, it did not get out of control as much as it did in her quarterfinal match win against Halep. In the first set, Kerber broke in the first, third, and seventh games, while Venus returned the favor in the second, fourth, and eighth games. In the first game of the second set, Venus won her first two service points. But Kerber won six straight points, the latter four being a love service hold game, from the first game into the second game. This was the lone break of the second set. In the fifth game, Venus lost her first service point, before she won her next two service points. Kerber won the next two points to give herself a break point opportunity. But Venus saved three break points in a lengthy deuce game and held her serve.

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

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

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

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

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

# **Marin Čilić (CROATIA)**

Čilić is an aggressive baseliner. He likes to take the attack directly on his opponents. He uses his height to hit big off both wings and can change direction at his own pace. His game completely revolves around his serve, which he hit with pace on both the first and the second deliveries. He can use his serve efficiently to win free points and set up his groundstrokes. His height lets him create pace on his second serve. He uses his forehand to control the rallies and can hit this shot both flat and with topspin. His remarkable footwork enables him to build strong movement. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2009 ZAGREB INDOORS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Arnaud Clément (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-3
2. Round of 16 Florent Serra (FRANCE) Win 6-2 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Antonio Veić (CROATIA) Win 6-2 7-6[6]
4. Semifinal Viktor Troicki (SERBIA) Win 6-2 7-5
5. Final Mario Ančić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-4

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

1. Round of 32 Alejandro Falla (COLOMBIA) Win 6-2 6-3
2. Round of 16 Daniel Brands (GERMANY) Win 7-6[7] 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-4
4. Semifinal Philipp Kohlschreiber (GERMANY) Win 6-4 7-6[4]
5. Final Jürgen Melzer (AUSTRIA) Loss 6-4 6-3

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

1. Round of 16 Daniel Brands (GERMANY) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Wayne Odesnik (USA) Win 6-4 6-0
3. Semifinal Alexandr Dolgopolov (UKRAINE) Win 7-5 6-2
4. Final Marcel Granollers (SPAIN) Win 6-4 6-2

**2014 ZAGREB INDOORS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Mate Delić (CROATIA) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Round of 16 Dušan Lajović (SERBIA) Win 6-4 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Ivan Dodig (CROATIA) Win 7-5 6-4
4. Semifinal Bjorn Phau (GERMANY) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Tommy Haas (GERMANY) Win 6-3 6-4

**2014 DELRAY BEACH OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Benjamin Becker (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-3
2. Round of 16 Ryan Harrison (USA) Win 6-3 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Teymuraz Gabashvili (RUSSIA) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Semifinal John Isner (USA) Win 7-6[5] 6-3
5. Final Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 7-6[6] 6-7[9] 6-4

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

1. Round of 16 Ernests Gulbis (LATVIA) Win 6-4 7-6[5]
2. Quarterfinal Federico Delbonis (ARGENTINA) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Semifinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 7-5 7-5
4. Final Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Loss 6-4 7-6[11]

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

1. Round of 16 Damir Džumhur (BOZNIA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Steve Darcis (BELGIUM) Win 6-1 6-1
3. Semifinal Diego Schwartzman (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 7-6[7]
4. Final Milos Raonic (CANADA) Win 7-6[3] 6-3

# **KIKI BERTENS (NETHERLANDS)**

Bertens is a baseline player with exceptional defensive skills. Her greatest strength is her forehand, because she can hit it with heavy topspin from any position on the court. She uses her two-handed backhand to dictate the rallies. She can also apply slices to her backhand to break up the pace of the rallies. Her exceptional fitness, movement, footwork, and court coverage make her a skilled counterpuncher and let her execute her playing style effectively. This helped her reach two finals without dropping a set:

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

1. Round of 64 Kateřina Siniaková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 32 Jeļena Ostapenko (LATVIA) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Round of 16 Anastasija Sevastova (LATVIA) Win 6-1 6-2
4. Quarterfinal Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-3
5. Semifinal Sloane Stephens (USA) Win 6-2 7-5
6. Final Simona Halep (ROMANIA) Win 6-4 6-4

The Madrid Open takes place in early May. The tournament is played on a red clay surface. It is as a tune-up tournament for the French Open. It was first played on indoor hard courts from 2002 to 2008. In 2009, it switched to outdoor clay courts to Park Manzanares, where a new complex with a retractable roof equipped main court was constructed. This new complex eventually became the Caja Magica.

Stephens is an all-court player. She plays behind the baseline and relies on her athleticism to defend against her opponents’ shots. She excels at thwarting shots and can turn defense into offense quick. Her game possesses easy power because of the casual nature when she injects pace into her shots. She sometimes flattens out her shots on the run. She favors her forehand and will run around her backhand at times to play this shot. In the first set, Bertens broke in the first and fifth games. In the second set, Stephens earned the first break in the sixth game. But Bertens broke in the next seventh game. Bertens was down triple set point on her serve in the 10th game. But she saved all three set points, broke in the 11th game, and successfully served out the match in the 12th game.

Halep is an aggressive counterpuncher, who uses her movement to turn rallies in her favor. She relies on nullifying points with her return and moving the ball around with clever touches. She can hit her backhand both crosscourt and down-the-line and her forehand has effective topspin. She also brings out drop shots and lobs occasionally to keep her opponents guessing. She can blend offense and defense seamlessly. But her height and lack of power are two weaknesses in her game. Her serve often sits up because it does not come down from a great height, and that leads to her dropping serve umpteen times in every match. With her groundstrokes, she is sometimes unable to create the flat power required to end the rallies quickly. This causes her to get involved in endless, lengthy, drawn-out matches, which eventually derail her chances in the latter stages of big tournaments. Bertens did have a physical struggle in her recovery after her quarterfinal win against Kvitová. But luckily, she an earlier finish in her semifinal win over Stephens. So, that gave her time to recover. Halep dished out four sets without dropping a game and lost only one set in a second-set tiebreak in her semifinal match against Bencic. Halep got off to a strong start when she broke first in the fourth and sixth games. But Bertens turned the set around with three breaks in the fifth, seventh, and ninth games. This was followed by two more breaks in the first and fifth games of the second set.

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

1. Round of 32 Johanna Larsson (SWEDEN) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Round of 16 Arantxa Rus (NETHERLANDS) Win 7-5 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Natalia Vikhlyantseva (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-3
4. Semifinal Elena Rybakina (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-4 6-4
5. Final Alison Riske-Amritraj (USA) Loss 0-6 7-6[3] 7-5

# **LEYLAH FERNANDEZ (CANADA)**

Fernandez is right-handed but plays left-handed. She can change directions with her forehand. She can also switch from offense to defense easily, but she prefers to stay on offense. She is a powerful hitter and possesses great accuracy in her flat groundstrokes, especially on her forehand. Her backhand down-the-line lets her earn free points and is a key shot in lengthy rallies. This helped her reach two junior Grand Slam finals and her first senior WTA final without dropping a set:

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

1. Round of 64 Kylie Collins (USA) Win 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 32 Moyuka Uchijima (JAPAN) Win 6-4 7-6[5]
3. Round of 16 Lisa Pigato (ITALY) Win 6-3 7-5
4. Quarterfinal Manon Léonard (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-1
5. Semifinal Anastasia Tikhonova (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-3
6. Final Clara Tauson (DENMARK) Loss 6-4 6-3

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

1. Round of 64 Mariia Tkacheva (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-3
2. Round of 32 Marta Custic (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-3
3. Round of 16 Park So-Hyun (SOUTH KOREA) Win 6-2 6-0
4. Quarterfinal Elsa Jacquemot (FRANCE) Win 6-0 6-0
5. Semifinal Camila Osorio (COLOMBIA) Win 6-2 6-4
6. Final Emma Navarro (USA) Win 6-3 6-2

**2020 MEXICAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Qualifying R1 Lizette Cabrera (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Qualifying R2 Varvara Lepchenko (USA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Round of 32 Nina Stojanović (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-1
4. Round of 16 Nao Hibino (JAPAN) Win 6-3 6-0
5. Quarterfinal Anastasia Potapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 7-5
6. Semifinal Renata Zarazúa (MEXICO) Win 6-3 6-3
7. Final Heather Watson (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-4 6-7[8] 6-1

# **DAYANA YASTREMSKA (UKRAINE)**

Yastremska is an aggressive baseline player. Her groundstrokes are hit with relentless power, depth, and speed, with her forehand being her best shot, due to the extreme amount of racquet head speed she creates. She can win a high percentage of points when she hits an inside-in forehand, and she can hit winners from any position of the court with her forehand. She also possesses a flat backhand, which lets her hit sharp angles. She can also apply slices to her backhand to break up the pace of rallies. This helped her reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2018 HONG KONG OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

* 1. Round of 32 Fanny Stollár (HUNGARY) Win 6-4 6-4
  2. Round of 16 Zheng Saisai (CHINA) Win 6-3 6-3
  3. Quarterfinal Kristína Kučová (SLOVAKIA) Win 7-6[6] 6-2
  4. Semifinal Shuai Zhang (CHINA) Win 7-5 6-4
  5. Final Wang Qiang (CHINA) Win 6-2 6-1

**2019 INTERNATIONAUX DE STRASBOURG [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Pauline Parmentier (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-4
2. Round of 16 Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-0 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Fiona Ferro (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-3
4. Semifinal Aryna Sabalenka (BELARUS) Win 6-4 6-4
5. Final Caroline Garcia (FRANCE) Win 6-4 5-7 7-6[3]

**2020 ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Tímea Babos (HUNGARY) Win 7-5 6-3
2. Round of 16 Angelique Kerber (GERMANY) Win 6-3 2-0 RETIRED
3. Quarterfinal Donna Vekić (CROATIA) Win 6-4 6-3
4. Semifinal Aryna Sabalenka (BELARUS) Win 6-4 7-6[4]
5. Final Ashleigh Barty (AUSTRALIA) Loss 6-2 7-5

# **WOMEN’S DOUBLES + MIXED DOUBLES**

In my final heading, I chose to merge my subheadings of my favorite women’s doubles and mixed doubles team into one big heading together. Now, I will tell my readers – it is extremely rare that a team can reach the biggest finals of their careers without dropping a set **OR** being pushed into a tiebreak **BEYOND** a 7-5 set scoreline! But whether that big stage is at the Grand Slams or other tournaments on the ATP and WTA tours, that is not important. It doesn’t matter whether the team has done it multiple times on different surfaces with various partners, the achievement is still massive.

When I dedicated a heading to Serena and wrote about Venus’s playing style in one of the tournament subheadings within Serena’s main heading, one thing struck me. Their singles careers took two contrasting turns. Venus started playing on the tour three years before Serena did. But ironically, Serena became the more stable, steady player in their two-decade careers. How did it turn out this way? I guess nobody really knows. But I did compare both the Williams sisters in terms of how many singles final each reached without dropping a set and Serena overtook Venus by 50%. Venus did reach 19 finals on three different surfaces [clay, grass, and hard. But Serena did it 37 times on four surfaces [carpet, clay, grass, and hard]. I wondered if it had to do with contrasting playing styles, since Venus is an all-court player and Serena is a baseline player. But despite the different drives in their singles careers, the Williams sisters accomplished themselves as the greatest doubles players of all time. Their playing styles helped them become the first women’s doubles teams to reach multiple finals across different surfaces without dropping a set **OR** being pushed into a tiebreak **BEYOND** a 7-5 set scoreline. After they stopped playing doubles to focus on their singles careers, I was curious to see who would be able to match their legacy, especially in this department. But I was happy to see umpteen women’s doubles and mixed doubles teams from all over the world being able to step up steadily in and accomplish this standard in so many different tournaments globally!

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

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

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

Dellacqua and Shvedova formed a unique partnership with their playing styles. Dellacqua is a primary baseliner. She can hit her lefty forehand down-the-line and her backhand crosscourt. She can put spin and angles on her groundstrokes. Meanwhile, Shvedova has efficient groundstrokes and proficiency at the net. The Australian-Kazakh duo played their best tennis in their semifinal match against Makarova and Vesnina. Makarova is an all-court player, who uses power and angles to set up passing shots. She is known for her left-handed slice serve, which often puts her opponents out of their comfort zones. She hits powerfully with aggressive groundstrokes. Her cross-court forehand is a powerful finishing shot. Meanwhile, Vesnina has an all-court game. But her game is more offensive at the baseline, and she can control rallies with her groundstrokes. Makarova and Vesnina were the favorites to beat Dellacqua and Shvedova in the semifinals and take home the title. But experience helped Dellacqua and Shvedova win this match in two sets. Shvedova won two Grand Slam titles with King in 2010 at Wimbledon and the US Open. When Shvedova and King won Wimbledon, they faced Vesnina and Zvonareva. Taking that final into account, Shvedova knew what to expect from Vesnina. As a result, Dellacqua and Shvedova crushed the Russians in straight sets. This may be hard to believe. But I saw this firsthand myself eventually almost two years later when Serena won the 2017 Australian Open without dropping a set. Serena faced this same exact scenario when she faced Konta in the quarterfinals. Since Konta is an aggressive baseliner with flat, quick, angled, sharp, powerful groundstrokes, it was easy to believe that the Brit would push Serena to three sets. But since Konta is someone that Venus faced before, this is where Serena reached out to Venus to get tips on how to approach the match. Luckily, it worked out and Serena was able to get the job done against Konta in straight sets. Coming back to the present with Dellacqua and Shvedova’s success in the 2015 French Open, even though Dellacqua and Shvedova came up short to Mattek-Sands and Lucie Šafářová, I still thought they played a great tournament together. Their run eventually led to them inflicting the ongoing long-term drought on every single team. What this means is that ever since they reached the 2015 French Open women’s doubles final without dropping a set, no other women’s doubles team has been able to match their act.

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

**2015 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPIONS] RESULT**

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

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

When Hingis and Mirza faced Makarova and Vesnina in the title match, they pulled off the biggest come-from-behind win I had seen from anyone on Centre Court against one of the toughest teams. In the first set, the Russians broke in the first and 11th games, while Hingis and Mirza broke in the second game. Once Makarova and Vesnina served out the first set in the 12th game, this was the first set Hingis and Mirza dropped the whole tournament. In the second set, both teams traded service holds for all 12 games, then Hingis and Mirza won the second set in a tiebreak. In the final set, Makarova and Vesnina broke in the fourth game. The eighth game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Hingis and Mirza, because they were serving to stay in the match. Hingis and Mirza bravely held in the eighth game to force Makarova and Vesnina to serve for the match in the ninth game. But instead of winning their third Grand Slam title [they won the 2013 French Open and 2014 US Open], Makarova and Vesnina dropped serve in the ninth game. After Hingis and Mirza came through a second, tough, **MUST-HOLD** game in the 10th game, things started to take a turn. The tournament officials briefly suspended the match for a brief time so that they could close the roof on Centre Court. Once both teams returned to Centre Court after the tournament officials closed the roof, I could sense that there was going to be a big shift in momentum. Makarova and Vesnina were on the brink of victory in the seventh, ninth and 10th games. But after they failed to serve out the match in the ninth game and let Hingis and Mirza hold in the 10th game, I could tell that both their nerves and the fatigue factor started to creep in. While this next 11th game was not necessarily a **MUST-HOLD** game for Makarova and Vesnina, I still got the sense that it was an important game for them, because I knew that they started to look ahead towards the finish line. When they got excited about being a game away from victory in the seventh, eighth and ninth games, they went for too much, too soon. Makarova and Vesnina simply let Hingis and Mirza off the hook when they failed to serve out the match in the ninth game. As a result, Hingis and Mirza broke in the 11th game and successfully served out the match to love in the 12th game.

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

**2016 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPIONS] RESULT**

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

Mattek-Sands and Šafářová formed a superb partnership. Mattek-Sands plays a versatile, all-court style with speed, determination, skill, and agility. Meanwhile, Šafářová plays left-handed with a two-handed backhand and a high topspin forehand. I may not have known about Mattek-Sands and Šafářová as much or long as I did about Dellacqua/Shvedova and Hingis/Mirza. But I ultimately knew enough to discover that they inflicted the ongoing drought at the Miami Open. Like the Dellacqua/Shvedova ongoing drought from the 2015 French Open, Mattek-Sands and Safarova did the same exact thing at the 2016 Miami Open. Since then, no other teams have been able to accomplish the feat.

**Andrea Hlaváčková (CZECH REPUBLIC)/Peng Shuai (CHINA)**

**2017 DUBAI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS [RUNNERS-UP] RESULT**

1. Liang Chen (CHINA/Yang Zhaoxuan (CHINA) 7-5 6-2
2. Mandy Minella (LUXEMBOURG)/Anastasija Sevastova (LATVIA) 7-5 6-2
3. Latisha Chan (CHINESE TAIPEI)/Martina Hingis (SWITZERLAND) 6-4 6-2
4. Angel Chan (CHINESE TAIPEI)/Slava Shvedova (KAZAKHSTAN) 6-1 6-3
5. Katya Makarova (RUSSIA)/Elena Vesnina (RUSSIA) 6-2 4-610-6

Hlaváčková started a fruitful partnership with Peng. Hlaváčková’s game has an attacking style, while Peng plays two-handed on both sides. The Dubai Tennis Championships take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on outdoor hardcourts. The tournament takes place at the end of February. The tournament first took place at the Aviation Club in 1993. Since 1996, the tournament took place at the Dubai Tennis Stadium at the Aviation Club. When Hlaváčková and Peng faced off against Makarova and Vesnina in the title match, it was a battle between an all-court team and two hard hitters. Even though Hlaváčková and Peng came up short in the title match, I still thought they played a great tournament together. This was the first time I saw that Hlaváčková and Peng played better than Makarova and Vesnina. Makarova and Vesnina did win 12 titles together. But they only reached six finals without dropping a set. I believe that they have huge amounts of confidence and very little abilities and that’s what prevents them from being able to win all their matches in straight sets. They may have won the title in Dubai. But they did have to fight back from a second-set deficit in a match tiebreak in their quarterfinal match, which made me believe that they can do better.

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

**2017 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPIONS] RESULT**

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

Dabrowski is an all-court player with touch shots. Meanwhile, Bopanna has a serve-oriented game, where he uses his big serve to set up points. His serve is the most important weapon in his collection. It is quick, flat, and can push his opponents on the backfoot with steadiness. He is proficient at the net because he can use his sharp reflexes to effectively deal with passing shots. Dabrowski and Bopanna dropped only 21 games in four matches and were the only doubles team to successfully reach the final without dropping a set. When they faced off against Grönefeld and Farah in the title match, Grönefeld and Farah got off to a strong start with breaks in the third and seventh games of the first set. This was the first set Dabrowski and Bopanna dropped the whole tournament. When Grönefeld and Farah broke in the third game of the second, it looked like the German-Colombian duo were on their way to win the title. But instead of losing the match in straight sets, Dabrowski and Bopanna secured three breaks in a row in the fourth, sixth, and eighth games to send the match into a super tiebreak. Then, Dabrowski and Bopanna saved two match points to take home the title.

# **RARE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

When Hlaváčková and Peng plastered the world with their dream run at the 2017 Dubai Tennis Championships, I was riveted. I never imagined that the outcome at certain tournaments would be where the runner-up would reach the final without dropping a set, instead of the champion. But it certainly is something that should never be counted out, especially in the singles editions with big veteran names. Even though this may be hard to believe, I did see it firsthand myself at two of the biggest tournaments in the world in the 2019 season on both the ATP and WTA tours.

**2019 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL**

When Serena became the first woman to successfully win the Brisbane International two consecutive years in a row without dropping a set both times, she set a perfect record of 16 sets won and zero sets lost. Even though the American chose not to participate at this tournament anymore after her successful title wins in 2013 and 2014, she set the standard so high, because it was a massive challenge for any woman to be able to achieve this feat. Sharapova and Azárenka did step up in the 2015 and 2016 editions, respectively. But after Azárenka won the 2016 edition, it took three years for another woman to reach the final without dropping a set. Despite the long wait, this tournament was certainly worth writing about! Just like Hlaváčková and Peng’s 2017 Dubai success, the same thing happened in the singles editions of the 2019 Brisbane International. The runner-up played a much better tournament than the champion.

**LESIA TSURENKO (UKRAINE) [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Mihaela Buzărnescu (ROMANIA) Win 6-0 6-2
2. Round of 16 Kimberly Birrell (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-4 6-3
3. Quarterfinal Anett Kontaveit (ESTONIA) Win 7-5 6-3
4. Semifinal Naomi Osaka (JAPAN) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Loss 4-6 7-5 6-2

**Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC) [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Yulia Putintseva (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 4-6 6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Marie Bouzková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-5 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Ajla Tomljanović (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 1-6 6-1
4. Semifinal Donna Vekić (CROATIA) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Final Lesia Tsurenko (UKRAINE) Win 4-6 7-5 6-2

I chose to write about the final between Tsurenko and Plíšková. Plíšková’s playing style revolves around her serve, groundstrokes, and net play. Her serve has pace, power, and precision. She can hit her forehand flat with significant and pace and power. But she does take risks on her serve. Her game is jaded by her movement and footwork because her opponents can hit low-risk winners. Even though Tsurenko lost a three-set final after suffering a left ankle injury in the third set, the Ukrainian maintained a cleaner level than Plíšková. Tsurenko edged out Plíšková in five out of the six key areas. Plíšková only came out on top in first serve points won.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Plíšková | Tsurenko |
| **ACES** | 1 | 6 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 5 | 2 |
| **1st SERVE %** | 67% | 70% |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 68% | 58% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 50% | 54% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 60% [6 out of 10] | 67% [4 out of 6] |

**2019 MIAMI OPEN**

Isner has a powerful, stable serve, because of his height. His serve often helps him end up winning a remarkable majority of his service games. He uses his serve and groundstrokes to finish points. His serve is a legendary shot because it has incredible power and precision. He may have lost the title match to Federer, but the American certainly played a much cleaner tournament than the Swiss legend. The Ace king won all ten sets he played in five matches.

**JOHN ISNER (USA) [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Lorenzo Sonego (ITALY) Win 7-6[2] 7-6[7]
2. Round of 32 Albert Ramos-Viñolas (SPAIN) Win 7-5 7-6[6]
3. Round of 16 Kyle Edmund (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 7-6[5] 7-6[3]
4. Quarterfinal Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 7-6[1] 7-6[5]
5. Semifinal Félix Auger-Aliassime (CANADA) Win 7-6[3] 7-6[4]
6. Final Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) Loss 6-1 6-4

**ROGER FEDERER (SWITZERLAND) [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Radu Albot (MOLDOVA) Win 4-6 7-5 6-3
2. Round of 32 Filip Krajinović (SERBIA) Win 7-5 6-3
3. Round of 16 Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-2
4. Quarterfinal Kevin Anderson (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-0 6-4
5. Semifinal Denis Shapovalov (CANADA) Win 6-2 6-4
6. Final John Isner (USA) Win 6-1 6-4

I chose to compare Isner’s semifinal win against Auger-Aliassime and Federer’s second-round win against Albot. Auger-Aliassime is an aggressive baseline player with a strong forehand. He uses his backhand to set up his forehand. Meanwhile, Albot is an aggressive baseline player. He has exceptional movement from the baseline and when he moves forward to come up to the net. I was curious to know how a lower-ranked player could play a much better tournament than a higher-ranked player. So, I collected the match stats for both players and organized them in two separate tables. That way, I could compare the levels of each player.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Isner | Auger-Aliassime |
| **1st SERVE %** | 73% | 64% |
| **ACES** | 21 | 6 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 2 | 7 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 75% | 77% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 53% | 73% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 50% [2 of 4] | 33% [2 of 6] |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Albot | Federer |
| **1st SERVE %** | 65% | 62% |
| **ACES** | 2 | 14 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 0 | 2 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 70% | 77% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 51% | 73% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 25% [1 of 4] | 25% [2 of 8] |

Isner scored a breathtaking recovery in his semifinal match against Auger-Aliassime. In the first set, Auger-Aliassime broke in the seventh game, but Isner broke in the 10th game. It was the same pattern in the second set when Auger-Aliassime broke in the sixth game. But Isner broke in the ninth game and ultimately took the match in two tiebreakers. Isner’s form was rock-solid with his first serve percentage. Even though Auger-Aliassime edged out Isner in first serve points won and second serve points won, Isner got out of trouble with the aid of 21 aces. The American also overcooked only two small double faults and surpassed Auger-Aliassime in break point conversions at the end of each set. When Federer defeated Albot in his opener though, this was the absolute worst level of tennis I saw from him. In the first set, Federer dropped serve in the first game and had four break point opportunities in the second game. But Albot held serve for the rest of the first set. In the second set, Federer broke in the 12th game. In the final set, Albot had a break point in the seventh game. But Federer found three straight service winners to hold, broke in the eighth game and served out the match in the ninth game. Even though Federer won the match, his form was patchy in all areas of his opener against Albot. Not only did he struggle with converting only two of eight chances, but his first serve percentage was also below standard.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Even though it took me a long time to put everything together, it was worth working my tail off! I learned easy things the hard way and vice versa with the fact that I was able to manage this Word document on a players’ and teams’ headings bases much better than a yearly basis! This would not have been possible without the amazing support I got from my family and friends! Thank you to everyone who was by my side this whole time while I put this Word document and these Excel spreadsheets together from start to finish! Stay tuned for updates! I will have more coming soon!