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.

In tennis, the Grand Slam tournaments are four important yearly events. They offer ranking points, strength, size of field, and “best of” sets. 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 [Australian and US Opens on hard courts, French Open on clay, and Wimbledon on grass]. Outside of the Grand Slams are the ATP [Association of Tennis Professionals] and WTA [Women's Tennis Association] tours. The ATPis for the men [outside of the four Grand Slams, the men play best of three sets in the other tournaments], while the WTA is for the women. I will analyze and focus on certain matches from specific rounds either in the Grand Slams or other ATP/WTA events.

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

Serena Williams (USA) is a baseline player. Her game revolves around taking direct control of rallies with her serve, return game, and groundstrokes. She constantly projects great pace and placement with her serve. Her serve is also lethal because of her ability to constantly place powerful shots with great accuracy. This helped her win the title without dropping a set:

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

Cibulková forms her game with enthusiasm and pace. She can embark on long rallies with her drop shots. Her strength creates quickness to reach for and return shots. In the first set, Serena broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games. In the second set, both players traded service holds for the first eleven 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. Cibulková had a game point on her serve in the 12th game to take the second set into a tiebreak. But Serena broke in the 12th game to claim the match.

Sharapova is an aggressive baseline player with power, depth, and angles on her shots. She has good speed around the court with her height. Her strength is her mental toughness and competitive spirit. In the first set, Serena broke in the third game. Then, Sharapova broke in the fourth game. Serena saved four set points and claimed the first-set tiebreak with a minibreak. Then, Serena broke in the fourth game of the second set.

Li is an aggressive baseliner with quick reflexes and athleticism. Her crosscourt forehand is her favorite shot because she can hit it with great accuracy and pace. Her backhand is also steady because she can release it to all areas of the court to dictate play. She has a solid defensive game with footwork, speed, and movement. Serena received serve in this match. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first ten games. In the 11th game, Li raced out to triple game point. But she let Serena in back to deuce with two forehand errors and a double fault. Serena earned a break point with a second consecutive double fault. Then, the American broke in the 11th game with a forehand volley error from Li. From triple game point in the 11th game, Serena won six straight points to earn the key break and serve for the first set in the 12th game. In the 12th game, Serena missed her first service point. But she smoothly won her last four service points of the set. Things could have tough for Serena if Li effectively held to love in the 11th game. If that were the case, then Serena would need to hold in the 12th game to force a first-set tiebreak. But once Li squandered triple game point, Serena did an excellent job to take advantage of Li’s dip in form. The American crushed 13 winner to only five unforced errors and faced zero break points in the first set. In the second set, Serena broke in the fifth and seventh games. Li broke in the eighth game. But Serena broke again in the ninth game to claim the match.

Kvitová has an offensive game. She also has fast, well-placed lefty serves. Her forehand is her dominant wing because she can create tremendous pace and penetration on it. In the first set, Kvitová broke in the fifth game, while Serena broke in the eighth game. Then, Serena claimed the first-set tiebreak with a minibreak. In the second set, Serena broke in the fifth and seventh games.

# **2011 US OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Serena’s 2011 season was limited due to her health issues. This caused her ranking to fall out of the top 100. But after she won titles Stanford and Toronto, this resurgence helped her return to the top 32 seeds of the WTA rankings. Her stats in the aces-double faults and winners-unforced ratios helped her reach the final without losing a set. She dropped only 29 games in six matches:

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

Wozniacki is a defensive baseline player with a counterpunching playing style. Her strengths are movement, speed, court coverage, aggressive footwork, anticipation, balance, and stamina. Her strongest weapon is her two-handed backhand, which she can use to turn defense into offense. Her backhand is hit down-the-line with depth, pace, and perception. In the first set, Serena broke in the fourth, sixth, and eighth games, while Wozniacki broke in the seventh game. In the second set, Serena broke in the third game. Wozniacki broke in the ninth game. But Serena broke in the 10th game to claim the match.

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

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

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

Vandeweghe has a strong serve. She plays aggressive with her heavy, powerful groundstrokes. In the first set, Serena broke in the second and fourth games. Then, Vandeweghe broke in the third, fifth, and seventh games. But Serena broke in the 10th and 12th games to claim the first set. Then, Serena broke in the fourth game of the second set.

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

The Australian Open series is a group of tune-up tournaments that lead up to the Australian Open. The Brisbane International is the first tournament in the Australian Open series. It takes place at the Queensland Tennis Center in Brisbane. I chose to merge the 2013 and 2014 editions of this tournament together into one heading. 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 successfully defend her title two years in a row without dropping a set both times:

**2013**

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

**2014**

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

I chose to write about Serena’s 2014 title win against Azárenka. Azárenka is an aggressive baseline player. She can redirect power crosscourt and down-the-line. Her movement, speed, court coverage, and footwork let her blend offense and defense together. Serena received serve in this match. In the first set, Serena broke in the seventh game. In the second set, Serena broke in the first and seventh games, while Azárenka broke in the fourth and sixth games. Serena was in danger of dropping the second set when she lost her first two service points in the 10th game. But she recovered to hold with four straight service points. Then, Serena broke in the 11th game. In the 12th game, Serena won her first two service points before Azárenka found a cross-court return winner. Next, Serena won her last two service points of the match. Azárenka’s return game makes her a dangerous player for her opponents. But I was curious to know why her losing record against Serena was lopsided. So, I collected their stats from this match and organized them in a table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Serena | Azárenka |
| **1st SERVE %** | 61% | 72% |
| **ACES** | 11 | 4 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 0 | 6 |
| **WINNERS** | 30 | 15 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 30 | 23 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 75% [27 of 36] | 64% [35 of 55] |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 57% [13 of 23] | 38% [8 of 21] |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 50% [4 of 8] | 67% [2 of 3] |

Each woman had strengths and weaknesses in this match. Azárenka maintained a higher first serve percentage and break point conversions. Those two components came in the second set, when Azárenka broke Serena in the fourth and sixth games. Even though Serena had a lower first serve percentage and break point conversion rate, her first and second serve points won were solid. The American also kept her aces-double faults and winners-unforced ratios fresh. With her 2013 and 2014 titles, Serena maintained her perfect streak of 16 sets won and zero sets lost. Even though she chose not to participate at this tournament anymore after her 2014 win, her accomplishment was so rare that it was very difficult for any woman to be able to accomplish this feat. Since the 2014 edition, there are only three other women, who successfully reached the final without dropping a set – Sharapova [2015 champion], Azárenka [2016 champion], and 2019 runner-up Lesia Tsurenko (UKRAINE). I will explain about Tsurenko’s run in a later heading.

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

Lucie Šafářová (CZECH REPUBLIC) plays left-handed with a high topspin forehand. Her timing off the ground lets her project groundstrokes with power. This helped her reach her first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

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

Ivanović is an offensive baseline player with an aggressive playing style. Her movement makes her a fast player. In this match, Šafářová received serve. In the first set, Ivanović broke in the second game. But Šafářová broke in the ninth and 11th games. In the second set, Šafářová broke in the third game. Ivanović broke in the 10th game. But Šafářová broke again in the 11th game.

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

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

Makarova is an all-court player, who uses power and angles to set up her shots. Meanwhile, Vesnina has an all-court game, but focuses on having an offensive baseline game. Her game is based on getting control in the rallies by using her groundstrokes to move her opponents around the court to find an opening. She can use her backhand to find angles on the court and dominate the rally. She also frequently uses drop shots, volleys, and angles to win points. Her movement and footwork around the court is solid, and she can accelerate around the court horizontally. The Russians were the heavy favorites to win this match. But experience helped Dellacqua and Shvedova to win this match in straight sets. Shvedova won two Grand Slam titles with Vania King (USA) in 2010 at Wimbledon and the US Open. When Shvedova and King won Wimbledon, they faced Vesnina and Zvonareva. Taking that final into account, I believe that Shvedova knew what to expect from Vesnina. Dellacqua and Shvedova broke in the eighth game of the first set. This was followed by two more breaks in the second set.

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

Martina Hingis (SWITZERLAND) and Sania Mirza (INDIA) formed a unique partnership with their playing styles. Hingis is an all-court player with superior movement, anticipation, and court coverage. Meanwhile, Mirza is an offensive player. She can set up attacks with her groundstrokes. This helped the Swiss-Miss Indian duo reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

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

Hingis and Mirza faced Makarova and Vesnina in the championship match. In the first set, Makarova and Vesnina broke Hingis and Mirza in the first and 11th games, while Hingis and Mirza broke in the second game. In the final set, Makarova and Vesnina broke in the third game. The Russians were two games away from victory in the seventh game of the final set. But Hingis and Mirza held in the eighth and 10th games. Then, they broke in the ninth and 11th games and successfully served out the match in the 12th game.

# **2015 US OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

Federer is an all-court, all-around player with speed and fluidity. His movement and footwork help him run around shots. He has immense variety with his forehand, because he can hit it with both topspin and pace. This helped him reach the final without dropping a set:

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

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

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

**ROUND-ROBIN**

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

**SEMIFINALS**

Angel Chan (CHINESE TAIPEI)/Latisha Chan (CHINESE TAIPEI): 6-4 6-2

**FINAL**

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

Babos has an aggressive playing style with slices and drop-shots. Meanwhile, Mladenovic has an all-court playing style with variety at the baseline to win points. Her forehand is her strongest wing because she can hit it shot flat and with topspin. In this match, Hingis and Mirza received serve. In the first set, Hingis and Mirza broke in the ninth game. Then, the Swiss-Miss Indian duo broke in the 11th game of the second set.

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

Serena’s form in the 2016 Australian Open was impeccable. After 15 previous appearances, she successfully reached the final without dropping a set. She dropped only twenty-six games in six matches with 46 aces and 164 winners:

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

Giorgi is a baseline player with an aggressive playing style and powerful groundstrokes. She can create angles with both her forehand and backhand to amaze her opponents and hit winners with ease. She can regularly hit deep returns and take the ball early, which lets her hit return winners. In this match, Serena received serve. In the first set, Serena broke in the third game and fifth games, while Giorgi broke in the sixth game. In the second set, Serena broke in the 11th game.

Radwańska is a tactically delicate tennis player. She can pull off challenging shots with smoothness. Her game is based on mobility and anticipation. She can redirect the ball by using her backhand on defense. Her primary weapons are slices and lobs. She can hit her groundstrokes at a variety of angles. In this match, Serena received serve. In the first set, Serena broke Aga Radwańska in the first, third and fifth games. In the second set, Serena broke in the third game. Aga Radwańska broke in the sixth game. But Serena broke again in the ninth game.

# **2016 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

The Indian Wells Masters take place at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, CA. The singles main draws have 96 players in a 128-player grid. The top 32 seeded players get a free pass from the first round into the second round. Serena won the title in 1999 and 2001. She made her return in 2015 and advanced to the semifinals before withdrawing from the tournament. One year later in 2016, she successfully reached the final without dropping a set:

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

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

The Miami Open takes place after Indian Wells. Indian Wells and Miami are the two tournaments, where matches take place beyond eight days. Azárenka won the title without dropping a set:

1. Monica Puig (PUERTO RICO): 6-2 6-4
2. Linette: 6-3 6-0
3. Muguruza: 7-6[8-6] 7-6[7-4]
4. Jo Konta (GREAT BRITAIN): 6-2 6-4
5. Angelique Kerber (GERMANY): 6-2 7-5
6. Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUSSIA): 6-3 6-2

Muguruza has an aggressive, all-court game. Her game revolves around her flat, powerful groundstrokes. Her strongest weapon is her backhand, which is hit flat with relentless depth and power. Azárenka broke in the third game of the first set and the second game of the second set. Muguruza broke in the fourth game of the second set and the ninth game of the second.

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

The Italian Open is a tune-up tournament for the French Open. Serena 13 of Serena’s 73 WTA titles came on clay. She won three French Open titles in 2002, 2013, and 2015. The American also reigned in Rome in 2002, 2013, and 2014. In 2016, she won the title without dropping a set:

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

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

Kerber was born right-handed but plays left-handed. Her counterpunching style lets her hit low-risk winners with ease. She has exceptional speed, agility, athleticism, and footwork. This helped her reach her first Wimbledon final without dropping a set:

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

I chose to write about the Wimbledon final between Serena and Kerber. Serena and Kerber first faced each other in the 2016 Australian Open final. When Serena lost that match final, she won less than 50% of her net points and sprayed 46 unforced errors. But when Serena and Kerber faced off in the Wimbledon final, Serena made a positive turnaround and successfully avenged her loss to Kerber. Kerber is tricky to maneuver, because she reads the game very well and has an answer to the problem. But she is predictable, because she struggles to end points, even if she’s in a winning position. This means that she’ll find herself entangled in lengthy rallies. Her serve is her major weakness, because she struggles to win more than 50% of second serve points. To understand this better, I collected Kerber’s match stats from her quarterfinal and semifinal matches.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Halep | Kerber |
| **1st SERVE %** | 69% | 71% |
| **ACES** | 1 | 2 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 3 | 1 |
| **WINNERS** | 18 | 23 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 21 | 21 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 50% | 57% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 36% | 42% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 75% [6 of 8] | 64% [7 of 11] |

Halep is an aggressive baseline player. She uses her speed and anticipation to set up her shots. Her backhand is her strongest weapon because she can use it on the attack. In the first set, Kerber broke in the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, and 12th games, while Halep broke in the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth games. In the second set, Kerber broke in the sixth and eighth games. Then, Halep broke in the seventh and ninth games. Halep earned the first minibreak in the second-set tiebreak. But Kerber won five of the last seven points of the match.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Kerber | Venus |
| **1st SERVE %** | 71% | 64% |
| **ACES** | 2 | 3 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 4 | 2 |
| **WINNERS** | 17 | 24 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 11 | 21 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 73% | 57% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 36% | 52% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 45% [5 of 11] | 60% [3 of 5] |

Venus has an all-court game. She possesses powerful groundstrokes and can hit them with topspin. In this semifinal match, neither player was at their best or worst. Kerber had a high first serve percentage and first serve points won. But Venus won more second serve points and break point conversions. In the first set, Kerber broke in the first, third, and fifth games. Venus broke in the second, fourth, and eighth games. Then, Kerber broke in the first game of the second set.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Serena | Kerber |
| **1st SERVE %** | 65% | 67% |
| **ACES** | 13 | 0 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 3 | 1 |
| **WINNERS** | 39 | 12 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 21 | 9 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 88% | 59% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 45% | 71% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 33% [2 of 6] | 0% [0 of 1] |

The championship match between Serena and Kerber was remarkable. Despite losing serve in the 12th game of the first set and the eighth game of the second set, Kerber still played a clean match. The German conceded only a single double fault in the second game of the first set and had only nine unforced errors in the entire match. But Serena did an excellent job to be careful and not make the same mistakes as she did in her 2016 Australian Open final loss. She came in with the expectations of Kerber playing crosscourt shots and she was proactive with her movement, which helped her win 16 points out of 22 trips to the net. In the first set, both players traded service holds for the first 11 games. Then, Serena broke Kerber in the 12th game to win the first set. This was followed by a break in the eighth game of the second set.

# **2016 NATIONAL BANK OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

The National Bank Open takes place in Canada. The event used to take place during separate weeks in the July and August for the men and women. But now, the two competitions take place during the same week in August. The events alternate between Montreal and Toronto. In the 2016 edition of this tournament, Djokovic won the title without dropping a set:

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

Nishikori is a primary baseline player. He uses his groundstrokes to push his opponents around. He can create pace on his backhand. He also plays defensively to wear out his opponents. The Serbian broke in the sixth game of the first set. Djokovic broke in the third game of the second set. Nishikori broke in the sixth game. But Djokovic broke again in the 11th game.

# **2016 US OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Kerber exhibited stamina and freedom. Her speed and sense of anticipation were top notch. She ran down the biggest shots with deadly passes. She hit her forehand crosscourt, down-the-line, and inside-out. These parts of her game helped her to reach the final without dropping a set:

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

Vinci has proficiency at the net and brutal use of her backhand slice. She has excellent anticipation with her powerful forehand. In the first set, Vinci broke in the first, fifth, and ninth games. But Kerber broke in the second, sixth, 10th and 12th games to claim the first set. In the second set, Kerber broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games to seal the match.

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

Serena’s 2016 season initially got off to a shaky start. But she got herself back on track after she claimed her 22nd Grand Slam title at Wimbledon. She came into the 2017 Australian Open with more confidence and less pressure. This helped her win the title without dropping a set:

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

# **2017 DUBAI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS – WOMEN’S DOUBLES**

The Dubai Tennis Championships take place on outdoor hardcourts. It is held at the end of February on outdoor hardcourts. The courts have a medium-fast speed. Hlaváčková started a creative partnership with Shuai Peng (CHINA). Hlaváčková’s game highlights her attacking returns. Meanwhile, Peng plays two-handed on her groundstrokes. This helped them reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2014 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPIONS]**

1. Medina Garrigues/Shvedova: 7-5 6-2
2. Chuang Chia-Jung (CHINESE TAIPEI)/Olga Govortsova (BELARUS): 6-3 6-2
3. Jarmila Gajdošová (AUSTRALIA)/Ajla Tomljanović (AUSTRALIA): 6-4 7-5
4. Alla Kudryavtseva (RUSSIA)/Anastasia Rodionova (AUSTRALIA): 6-1 6-4
5. Cara Black (ZIMBABWE)/Mirza: 6-4 6-4

**2016 AEGEON OPEN [CHAMPIONS]**

1. Nicole Melichar (USA)/Alicja Rosolska (POLAND): 6-2 6-4
2. Angel Chan/Latisha Chan: 6-2 7-6[7-3]

**2017 SHENZHEN OPEN [CHAMPIONS]**

1. Nina Stojanović (SERBIA)/Zhu Lin (CHINA): 6-4 7-5
2. Jelena Janković (SERBIA)/Kateřina Siniaková (CZECH REPUBLIC): 6-3 6-3
3. Natela Dzalamidze (RUSSIA)/Veronika Kudermetova (RUSSIA): 6-4 6-2
4. Raluca Olaru (ROMANIA)/Olga Savchuk (UKRAINE) 6-1 7-5

**2017 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [RUNNERS-UP]**

1. Misaki Doi (JAPAN)/Nara: 6-1 7-6[7-1]
2. Karin Knapp (ITALY)/Mandy Minella (LUXEMBOURG) 6-3 6-2
3. Andreja Klepač (SLOVENIA)/María José Martínez Sánchez (SPAIN): 6-2 6-0
4. Makarova/Vesnina: 7-5 7-6[7-5]
5. Garcia/Mladenovic: 7-6[7-4] 6-2

After Hlaváčková and Peng won the 2017 Shenzhen Open, they reached their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set at the 2017 Australian Open. Even though they came up short in the finals with a three-set loss, they maintained their blistering form in their next tournament. They efficiently navigated their way through a delicate draw in Dubai:

1. Liang Chen (CHINA/Yang Zhaoxuan (CHINA): 7-5 6-2
2. Minella/Anastasija Sevastova (LATVIA): 7-5 6-2
3. Latisha Chan/Hingis: 6-4 6-2
4. Angel Chan/Shvedova: 6-1 6-3

# **2017 FRENCH OPEN – MIXED DOUBLES**

Gaby Dabrowski (CANADA) and Rohan Bopanna (INDIA) formed a special partnership with their unique playing style. Dabrowski is an all-court player, who uses touch shots at the net. Meanwhile, Bopanna has a serve-oriented game, where he uses his big first serve to set up points. Their playing styles helped them reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

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

# **2017 WIMBLEDON – MEN’S SINGLES**

Federer’s form on grass is impeccable. His skill and ability to use the speed of the makes him ideally suited to quick, technical play. This helped him reach multiple Wimbledon finals without losing a set:

**2006 [CHAMPION]**

1. Richard Gasquet (FRANCE): 6-3 6-2 6-2
   1. Five aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 35 winners
   4. 13 unforced errors
2. Tim Henman (GREAT BRITAIN): 6-4 6-0 6-2
   1. Six aces
   2. Zero double faults
   3. 23 winners
   4. Eight unforced errors
3. Nicolas Mahut (FRANCE): 6-3 7-6[7-2] 6-4
   1. Seven aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 50 winners
   4. 13 unforced errors
4. Tomáš Berdych (CZECH REPUBLIC): 6-3 6-3 6-4
   1. 21 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 47 winners
   4. 15 unforced errors
5. Mario Ančić (CROATIA): 6-4 6-4 6-4
   1. Seven aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 35 winners
   4. 17 unforced errors
6. Jonas Björkman (SWEDEN): 6-2 6-0 6-2
   1. Nine aces
   2. Zero double faults
   3. 30 winners
   4. 13 unforced errors

**2008 [RUNNER-UP]**

1. Dominik Hrbatý (SLOVAKIA): 6-3 6-2 6-2
2. Robin Söderling (SWEDEN): 6-3 6-4 7-6[7-3]
3. Marc Gicquel (FRANCE): 6-3 6-3 6-1
4. Lleyton Hewitt (AUSTRALIA): 7-6[9-7] 6-2 6-4
5. Ančić: 6-1 7-5 6-4
6. Marat Safin (RUSSIA): 6-3 7-6[7-3] 6-4

In 2017, Federer secured an eighth crown at the All-England Club. He surpassed Pete Sampras (USA) for first place on the all-time list. He also became the second player to secure the title without dropping a set in the Open Era, with Bjorn Borg (SWEDEN) did it back in 1976. Like his 2006 win, he accumulated positive ratios in the aces-double faults and winners-unforced errors categories:

1. Alexandr Dolgopolov (UKRAINE): 6-3 3-0 RETIRED
   1. 10 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 18 winners
   4. 17 unforced errors
2. Dušan Lajović (SERBIA): 7-6[7-0] 6-3 6-2
   1. Nine aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 31 winners
   4. 15 unforced errors
3. Mischa Zverev (GERMANY): 7-6[7-3] 6-4 6-4
   1. 13 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 61 winners
   4. Seven unforced errors
4. Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA): 6-4 6-2 6-4
   1. Eight aces
   2. Zero double faults
   3. 24 winners
   4. 11 unforced errors
5. Milos Raonic (CANADA): 6-4 6-2 7-6[7-4]
   1. 11 aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 46 winners
   4. Nine unforced errors
6. Berdych: 7-6[7-4] 7-6[7-4] 6-4
   1. 13 aces
   2. Four double faults
   3. 53 winners
   4. 20 unforced errors
7. Marin Čilić (CROATIA): 6-3 6-1 6-4
   1. Eight aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 23 winners
   4. Eight unforced errors

Čilić is an aggressive baseline player. He can use his height to hit big off both wings and change direction. He can use his serve to win free points and set up groundstroke winners. He can hit his forehand with topspin, which lets him control most rallies. His footwork helps him reach balls that others cannot. In the first set, Federer broke in the fifth and ninth games. The Swiss grabbed two more breaks in the second and sixth games in the second set. Then, Federer broke again in the seventh game of the third set.

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

Federer is a great attacking player. He averages 90% of service games in his career, because he can produce big serves in tight games. Federer is confident in his game and always found a way to play his best at the moments in matches when it counted most. This helped the Swiss player win the 2007 Australian Open title without dropping a set:

1. Björn Phau (GERMANY): 7-5 6-0 6-4
   1. Seven aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 29 winners
   4. 29 unforced errors
2. Björkman: 6-2 6-3 6-2
   1. Seven aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 38 winners
   4. 19 unforced errors
3. Mikhail Youzhny (RUSSIA): 6-3 6-3 7-6[7-5]
   1. Seven aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 40 winners
   4. 33 unforced errors
4. Djokovic: 6-2 7-5 6-3
   1. 12 aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 51 winners
   4. 26 unforced errors
5. Tommy Robredo (SPAIN): 6-3 7-6[7-2] 7-5
   1. Five aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 42 winners
   4. 31 unforced errors
6. Andy Roddick (USA): 6-4 6-0 6-2
   1. 10 aces
   2. Two double faults
   3. 45 winners
   4. 12 unforced errors
7. Fernando González (CHILE): 7-6[7-2] 6-4 6-4
   1. Five aces
   2. One double fault
   3. 45 winners
   4. 19 unforced errors

Eleven years later, Federer’s form was still scintillating. The Swiss won all 18 sets he played in six matches. While he could not blow his opponents out, he also did not give them any hope either. His opponents pushed him to tiebreakers. But no opponent could grab a set from him. He was able to count on his all-court game and superior skill to pull him through tough positions. He also spent fewer hours on court. This helped him accumulate positive ratios in the aces-double faults and winners-unforced errors categories:

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

I chose to write about the championship match between Federer and Čilić. In the first set, Federer broke in the first and third games. Then, Čilić won the second-set tiebreak. In the third set, Federer broke in the sixth game. In the fourth set, Federer broke in the first game. But Čilić broke in the sixth and eighth games. In the fifth set, Federer broke Čilić in the second and sixth games.

In the mixed doubles portion of the tournament, Dabrowski started a partnership with Mate Pavić (CROATIA). Pavić has quick reflexes with a lefty serve. This helped them reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set or losing serve:

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

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

Tsurenko’s playing style labels her as a counterpuncher. Her backhand is her strongest weapon because it gives her power to dominate the court. But she can also play her forehand with a spin. The 2019 Brisbane International was the final year that the tournament would be part of both the ATP and WTA tours. Even though Tsurenko was unseeded in the tournament, she played the cleanest tennis to reach the biggest final of her career without dropping a set:

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

I chose to write about the final between Tsurenko and Karolína Plíšková (CZECH REPUBLIC). Plíšková has an aggressive playing style. Her powerful groundstrokes let her hit winners from any position. Her strongest groundstroke is her forehand because she can hit it flat with pace and power. Even though Tsurenko came up short in a three-setter after suffering a left ankle injury, the Ukrainian still maintained a higher, cleaner level of excellency.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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] |

Tsurenko edged out Plíšková in five out of the six key areas of this match. Plíšková only came out on top in first serve points won. Plíšková’s game is troubled by poor movement and jaded footwork. Her opponents can hit low-risk winners because she can’t reach the winning shot quick enough. Her movement causes her to struggle against defensive players, who move her around the baseline.

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

During the off-season in 2016 going into the 2017 season, Kvitová suffered injuries to her dominant left hand during a home invasion. The doctors said she may never play tennis again. But she overcame the obstacles and reached her first Australian Open final without dropping a set:

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

Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) is born right-handed but plays left-handed. He plays an aggressive, baseline game with his topspin groundstrokes, speedy footwork, and persistent court coverage. This makes him an aggressive counterpuncher. His athleticism and speed help him hit well on the run. This helped him reach the final without dropping a set:

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

Tsitsipas is an aggressive baseline, all-court player. He can hit his one-handed backhand with topspin. He prefers to attack from the baseline. Tsitsipas routed Federer in a fourth-round four-setter and saved all 12 break points that he faced. But in this semifinal match, Nadal broke in the third and seventh games of the first set. Then, the Spaniard broke ninth game of the second set. This was followed by three more breaks in the first, third, and fifth games of the third set. Tsitsipas was initially predicted to push Nadal to five sets. But several people pointed out that Tsitsipas’s game matches up better with Federer’s than Nadal’s. At this moment, I believed that if multiple people said the same thing about comparing Tsitsipas to Federer and Nadal, then there had to be some truth in their viewpoints. But I realized that this was the also the perfect time for me to collect data to uncover the truth. So, I collected and organized Tsitsipas’s stats in two tables.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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, it was a battle between two all-court players with one-handed backhands. Their stats were close in proximity and Tsitsipas claimed the lone break in the 11th game of the third set. But when Tsitsipas lost to Nadal, the Greek’s stats took a deep plunge. Even though Tsitsipas had a higher first serve percentage and matched Nadal with the same number of aces, the number of winners, first serve points won, second serve points won, and break point conversions costed him badly.

# **2019 MIAMI OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

Isner is an aggressive player. He uses his serve and groundstrokes to finish points as quickly as possible. He also comes to the net frequently to put away volleys. His forehand is his dominant wing because he can hit it flat and hard. His topspin backhand is also flat but not as pacy, as he prefers to use sometimes use his backhand as a slice. His serve is a legendary shot because it has incredible power and precision. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2011 NEWPORT HALL OF FAME OPEN [CHAMPION]**

1. Karol Beck (SLOVAKIA): 6-3 6-2
2. Arnaud Clément (FRANCE): 7-6[8-6] 6-4
3. Alex Bogomolov Jr. (USA): 7-6[7-5] 6-4
4. Kamke: 7-5 7-6[7-4]
5. Rochus: 6-3 7-6[8-6]

**2017 HALL OF FAME OPEN [CHAMPION]**

1. Sam Groth (AUSTRALIA): 6-2 6-4
2. Dennis Novikov (USA): 6-4 6-4
3. Bjorn Frantangelo (USA): 6-2 6-4

**2017 BB&T ATLANTA OPEN [CHAMPION]**

1. Vasek Pospisil (CANADA): 6-3 6-4
2. Lukáš Lacko (SLOVAKIA): 7-5 6-4
3. Müller: 6-4 6-2
4. Ryan Harrison (USA): 7-6[8-6] 7-6[9-7]

When I kicked off the 2019 season with my first tournament of the year at the Brisbane International, I highlighted the irony of how a runner-up plays a cleaner match than the champion in a final. However, I never imagined that history would repeat itself in Miami two months later. Federer won the title against Isner. But the American maintained a cleaner level than the Swiss legend. Isner won all ten sets he played in five matches and lost serve only three times:

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

Isner scored a breathtaking recovery in his semifinal match against Auger-Aliassime. Auger-Aliassime is an aggressive baseline player with a strong forehand. The Canadian broke in the seventh game of the first set and the sixth game of the second set. But Isner broke in the 10th game of the first set and the ninth game of the second set to take the match in two tiebreakers.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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] |

I also chose to write about Federer’s opener against Radu Albot (MOLDOVA). That way, I could explain the concept of how a runner-up plays a cleaner match than the champion to my readers in a clear manner. Albot broke Federer in the first game of the first set. Then, Federer broke in the 12th game of the second set and the eighth game of the third set. Even though Federer won this match, I didn’t think that his level was up to standards.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Albot | Federer |
| **1st SERVE %** | 65% | 62% |
| **ACES** | 2 | 14 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 0 | 2 |
| **WINNERS** | 19 | 38 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 27 | 41 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 70% | 77% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 51% | 73% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 25% [1 of 4] | 25% [2 of 8] |

Federer’s form was patchy in terms of first serve percentage, unforced errors, and break point conversions. It wasn’t until the 12th game of the second set and the eighth game of the third set where he was able to raise his level. His backhand created the problem for him because he won under 40% of his shots on that wing. The biggest flaw was his poor conversion of break points.

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

The Madrid Open takes place in early May as a tune-up tournament for the French Open. Kiki Bertens (NETHERLANDS) is a baseline player. She can hit her forehand with power and topspin from any position. She also uses her backhand as a slice to dictate play and break up the pace of the rallies. This helped her become the first woman to win the title without dropping a set:

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

Stephens is an all-court player. She plays behind the baseline and relies on her athleticism to defend against her opponent’s shots. In the first set, Bertens broke in the first and fifth games. In the second set, Stephens broke in the sixth game, while Bertens broke in the seventh game. In the 10th game, Bertens was down triple set point on her serve. But she edged through a key hold. Then, she broke in the 11th game and efficiently served out the match in the 12th game.

# **2019 FRENCH OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Markéta Vondroušová (CZECH REPUBLIC) has a crafty playing style with a variety of shots. Her game includes lengthy rallies with her lefty topspin forehand. Her signature shot is her drop shot. This helped her reach her first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

1. Wang Yafan (CHINA): 6-4 6-3
2. Anastasia Potapova (RUSSIA): 6-4 6-0
3. Suárez Navarro: 6-4 6-4
4. Sevastova: 6-2 6-0
5. Petra Martić (CROATIA): 7-6[7-1] 7-5
6. Konta: 7-5 7-6[7-2]

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

Strýcová formed a unique partnership with Hsieh. Hsieh has an eccentric playing style with her two-handed groundstrokes. She incorporates drop shots, lobs, and volleys. This helped them win their first Grand Slam title without losing a set:

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

# **2019 SHANGHAI MASTERS – MEN’S SINGLES**

Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) is a baseline player. He possesses superior movement and quickness. His game revolves around lengthy baseline rallies with his long, flat groundstrokes. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2018 WINSTON-SALEM OPEN [CHAMPION]**

1. Bašić: 6-4 6-4
2. De Minaur: 6-3 6-3
3. Guido Andreozzi (ARGENTINA): 7-5 6-1
4. Harrison: 7-6[7-4] 6-4
5. Steve Johnson (USA): 6-4 6-4

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

1. Bjorn Fratangelo (USA): 6-3 6-4
2. Tiafoe: 6-2 7-5
3. Čilić: 6-4 7-6[9-7]
4. Peter Gojowczyk (GERMANY): 6-2 6-2

The Washington Open is held at Rock Creek Tennis Stadium in Washington DC. It is a tune-up tournament for the US Open. I chose to write about the final between Medvedev and Nick Kyrgios (AUSTRALIA). Kyrgios has a strong serve, which reaches 75% accuracy and speeds up to 140 mph. His second serve is often hit at speeds above 120 mph. He also has a tremendous, blasting forehand and dangerous backhand. Even though Kyrgios defeated Medvedev in two tiebreakers, the score was tighter than it looked. The match stats for both players were close in proximity. Neither player had any weaknesses in this match. Both men kept their unforced error count low in the teens and created zero break point opportunities.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Kyrgios | Medvedev |
| **1st SERVE %** | 80% | 74% |
| **ACES** | 18 | 10 |
| **DOUBLE FAULTS** | 0 | 2 |
| **WINNERS** | 32 | 29 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 19 | 14 |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 81% | 88% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 63% | 67% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 0% [0 of 0] | 0% [0 of 0] |

With his run in Washington, Medvedev broke into the top 10 of the ATP rankings. In his 2019 summer North American hard-court campaign, the Russian reached another final in Montreal without dropping a set:

1. Kyle Edmund (GREAT BRITAIN): 6-3 6-0
2. Cristian Garín (CHILE): 6-3 6-3
3. Dominic Thiem (AUSTRIA): 6-3 6-1
4. Karen Khachanov (RUSSIA): 6-1 7-6[8-6]

The St. Petersburg Open takes place on indoor hard courts at the Petersburg Sports and Concert Complex in St. Petersburg, Russia. It takes place in late September, after the US Open. Medvedev became the youngest player to win the title on home soil without losing a set:

1. Donskoy: 7-5 6-3
2. Andrey Rublev (RUSSIA): 6-4 7-5
3. Egor Gerasimov (BELARUS): 7-5 7-5
4. Borna Ćorić (CROATIA): 6-3 6-1

The Shanghai Masters takes place on outdoor hard courts in early October. It takes place at the Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena in the Minhang District of Shanghai. Medvedev’s form soared when he won the without losing a set:

1. Cameron Norrie (GREAT BRITAIN): 6-3 6-1
2. Vasek Pospisil (CANADA): 7-6[7-4] 7-5
3. Fabio Fognini (ITALY): 6-3 7-6[7-4]
4. Tsitsipas: 7-6[7-5] 7-5
5. Sascha Zverev (GERMANY): 6-4 6-1

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

Dayana Yastremska (UKRAINE) is an aggressive baseline player. She can win a high percentage of points when she hits her forehand inside-out. She can apply slice to her backhand to break up the pace of the rallies. This helped her reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2018 HONG KONG TENNIS OPEN [CHAMPION]**

1. Fanny Stollár (HUNGARY): 6-4 6-4
2. Saisai: 6-3 6-3
3. Kristína Kučová: 7-6[8-6] 6-2
4. Shuai Zhang (CHINA): 7-5 6-4
5. Wang Qiang (CHINA): 6-2 6-1

**2019 THAILAND OPEN [CHAMPION]**

1. Arantxa Rus (NETHERLANDS): 6-0 6-3
2. Peng: 6-1 6-4
3. Muguruza: 7-6[7-5] 6-1
4. Linette: 6-4 6-3

**2019 INTERNATIONAUX DE STRASBOURG [CHAMPION]**

1. Pauline Parmentier (FRANCE): 6-2 6-4
2. Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA): 6-0 6-2
3. Fiona Ferro (FRANCE): 6-1 6-3
4. Sabalenka: 6-4 6-4

The Adelaide International takes place in Adelaide, South Australia, at the Memorial Drive Tennis Centre. It is a tune-tup tournament for the Australian Open. Yastremska cruised through to the biggest final of her career without dropping a set:

1. Babos: 7-5 6-3
2. Kerber 6-3 2-0 RETIRED
3. Donna Vekić (CROATIA): 6-4 6-3
4. Sabalenka: 6-4 7-6[7-4]

Sabalenka is a baseline player. She only has one strategy to play all-out attack. She can take cuts on her groundstrokes to hit them flat and deep. She also has a pacy serve, which she uses to set up her groundstrokes. Yastremska broke in the fifth game of the first set. In the second set, the Ukrainian broke in the first game of the second set, while Sabalenka broke in the sixth game.

# **2020 MEXICAN OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Leylah Fernandez (CANADA) is born right-handed but plays left-handed. She is a baseline player.

She can take the ball early to change directions with crosscourt forehands. This helped her reach two junior Grand Slam finals without losing a set:

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

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

**2019 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION]**

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

The Mexican Open takes place in February at the Fairmont Acapulco Princess in Acapulco, Mexico. This tournament was a breakthrough for Fernandez. The Canadian came through the qualifying and main draws with six straight set wins to book her place in her first WTA final:

**QUALIFYING**

1. Cabrera: 6-3 6-1
2. Lepchenko: 6-3 6-3

**MAIN DRAW**

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

# **2020 FRENCH OPEN – MEN’S SINGLES**

Nadal is the most successful player on clay courts. His game on the surface revolves around his footwork and movement. The surface slows the ball down, which lets him use his athleticism to build his points. He can control the angles to get his opponents out of position. Even though his playing style is aggressive, he is also patient when needs to be. This way, he can take the shot on the first point and aim directly for it. He can hit more than 100 shots without losing power and core interest. His capacity to restore each shot with interest is proof of how inevitable he is on the surface. His topspin forehands, astonishing protection, and position path make him an exemplary clay court player. This helped him reach multiple French Open finals without losing a set:

**2007 [CHAMPION]**

1. Juan Martín Del Potro (ARGENTINA): 7-5 6-3 6-2
2. Flavio Cipolla (ITALY): 6-2 6-1 6-4
3. Albert Montañés (SPAIN): 6-1 6-3 6-2
4. Hewitt: 6-3 6-1 7-6[7-5]
5. Carlos Moyá (SPAIN): 6-4 6-3 6-0
6. Djokovic: 7-5 6-4 6-2

**2008 [CHAMPION]**

1. Thomaz Bellucci (BRAZIL): 7-5 6-3 6-1
2. Nicolas Devilder (FRANCE): 6-4 6-0 6-1
3. Jarkko Nieminen (FINLAND): 6-1 6-3 6-1
4. Verdasco: 6-1 6-0 6-2
5. Almagro: 6-1 6-1 6-1
6. Djokovic: 6-4 6-2 7-6[7-3]
7. Federer: 6-1 6-3 6-0

**2010 [CHAMPION]**

1. Gianni Mina (FRANCE): 6-2 6-2 6-2
2. Horacio Zeballos (ARGENTINA): 6-2 6-2 6-3
3. Hewitt: 6-3 6-4 6-3
4. Bellucci: 6-2 7-5 6-4
5. Almagro: 7-6[7-2] 7-6[7-3] 6-4
6. Melzer: 6-2 6-3 7-6[8-6]
7. Robin Söderling (SWEDEN): 6-4 6-2 6-4

**2017 [CHAMPION]**

1. Paire: 6-1 6-4 6-1
2. Robin Haase (NETHERLANDS): 6-1 6-4 6-3
3. Nikoloz Basilashvili (GEORGIA): 6-0 6-1 6-0
4. Bautista Agut: 6-1 6-2 6-2
5. Pablo Carreño Busta (SPAIN): 6-2 2-0 RETIRED
6. Thiem: 6-3 6-4 6-0
7. Wawrinka: 6-2 6-3 6-1

After the 2020 Mexican Open, the COVID-19 pandemic hit on March 11th, 2020. Nobody knew if tennis would return. But, when the 2020 French Open took place in late September, the fans were allowed to return. Court Philippe-Chatrier had a retractable roof as well. Nadal found his best level and won the title without dropping a set:

1. Egor Gerasimov (BELARUS): 6-4 6-4 6-2
2. Mackie McDonald (USA): 6-1 6-0 6-3
3. Stefano Travaglia (ITALY): 6-1 6-4 6-0
4. Sebastian Korda (USA): 6-1 6-1 6-2
5. Jannik Sinner (ITALY): 7-6[7-4] 6-4 6-1
6. Diego Schwartzman (ARGENTINA): 6-3 6-3 7-6[7-0]
7. Djokovic: 6-0 6-2 7-5

Sinner’s playing style displays his all-court movement. He can hit his backhand with topspin. In the first set, Sinner broke in the 11th game. But Nadal broke in the 12th game and cruised through the first-set tiebreak. In the second set, Sinner broke in the fourth game. But Nadal broke in the fifth and ninth games. Then, the Spaniard broke in the first, third, and seventh games of the third set.

Schwartzman is a baseline player with solid groundstrokes on both wings. He also has a high-quality return game. He can counterpunch and go on the offensive. He plays highly on defense because his speed lets him hit winners from cautious positions far off court. In the first set, Nadal broke in the second and fourth games. Schwartzman answered the call with a break in the third game. In the second set, Nadal broke in the third and ninth games. In the third set, Nadal broke in the fourth and sixth games, while Schwartzman broke in the fifth and seventh games.

With his win against Schwartzman, Nadal set up a clash with Djokovic in the championship match. In this final, Nadal broke in the first, third, and fifth games to whitewash Djokovic in the first set. Then, the Spaniard broke in the third and fifth games of the second set. In the third set, Nadal broke in the fifth and 11th games, while Djokovic broke in the sixth game.

# **2021 QUEEN’S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Matteo Berrettini (ITALY) is an all-court player with a strong serve and forehand. His forehand has speed, spin, and depth. He focuses on setting up quick points to place pressure on his opponents. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2018 SWISS OPEN GSTAAD [CHAMPION]**

1. Albot: 6-4 6-2
2. Rublev: 6-3 6-3
3. Feliciano López (SPAIN): 6-4 6-3
4. Jürgen Zopp (ESTONIA): 6-4 7-6[8-6]
5. Bautista Agut: 7-6[11-9] 6-4

**2019 STUTTGART OPEN [CHAMPION]**

1. Kyrgios: 6-3 6-4
2. Khachanov: 6-4 6-2
3. Denis Kudla (USA): 6-3 6-3
4. Auger-Aliassime: 6-4 7-6[13-11]

The Queen’s Club Championships takes place at the Queen’s Club in West Kensington in London. The event is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and is a tune-up tournament for Wimbledon. At this event, Berrettini successfully reached his first grass court final without dropping a set:

1. Stefano Travaglia: 7-6[7-5] 7-6[7-4]
2. Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN): 6-3 6-3
3. Evans: 7-6[7-5] 6-3
4. De Minaur: 6-4 6-4

Norrie’s playing style dubs him as a counterpuncher. His lefty forehand has heavy topspin. He is strong in his ability to deactivate pace with his movement and speed. When Berrettini and Norrie faced off in the championship match, it was a high-quality display from both men. In the first set, Berrettini broke in the fifth game. All 12 games of the second set went on serve and Norrie won the second-set tiebreak with a minibreak. Then, Berrettini broke in the eighth game of the third set.

# **2021 CINCINNATI MASTERS**

Barty has an all-court game and crafty playing style. She can use her forehand to create sharp angles on cross-court shots. Her backhand slice is a major weapon, both in offense and defense. The Cincinnati Masters is the oldest tennis tournament in the US. It is a tune-up tournament for the US Open. It has been played in its original city since 1899. Until 1978, the tournament was played on clay courts. But since 1978, the surface was permanently switched to hard courts. In the 2021 edition, Barty won the title without dropping a set:

1. Watson: 6-4 7-6[7-3]
2. Azárenka: 6-0 6-2
3. Barbora Krejčíková (CZECH REPUBLIC): 6-2 6-4
4. Kerber: 6-2 7-5
5. Jil Teichmann (SWITZERLAND): 6-3 6-1

Barty was in blistering form against Kerber in the semifinals. In the first set, Barty broke in the sixth and eighth games. In the second set, Barty broke in the second game. But Kerber broke in the third and fifth games. Despite this hiccup, Barty showed no signs of panic or frustration. Ultimately, the Australian broke in the sixth and 12th games to seal the match. “I didn’t feel like I did a lot wrong. Angie came up with some good stuff and tough points. I knew that Angie was lifting her level and I needed to go with her. It’s never a walk in the park against her because she’s an exceptional competitor. In the two games I got broken, she saw too many second serves. But I was able to get that momentum back straight away. I had to accept that if I was going to miss, I was going to miss in the right way.”

After Barty reached the final without dropping a set, she awaited the winner of the second semifinal match between Plíšková and Teichmann. Plíšková reached the semifinals without dropping a set, while Teichmann upset Osaka in a three-setter in the Round of 16. Plíšková was the favorite to defeat Teichmann in two sets. But Teichmann broke in the fifth and seventh games and effectively 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. Before Barty faced Teichmann in the final, one question was in my mind. If Plíšková did beat Teichmann in a three-set semifinal, could she push Barty to three sets? Once Plíšková dropped the first set to Teichmann though, I realized that regardless of whether this second semifinal match went three sets or not, the result wouldn’t have mattered. Whoever faced Barty in the final would have to deal with the fatigue factor. When a player gets pushed to three sets, I always wonder how much energy they have left in their tank for their next match. This may be hard to believe, but I saw it firsthand myself when Bertens secured the 2019 Mutua Madrid Open. Halep dished out four bagel sets and lost one set in her semifinal match. Bertens struggled to physically recover after her late finish in her quarterfinal match against Kvitová. But Bertens lucked out in having an earlier finish in her semifinal win against Stephens. The physical challenges weren’t any better for Halep, because the Romanian battled illness throughout the entire tournament and her three-set semifinal win against Bencic was a two-hour struggle. But the fatigue factor kicked in for Halep much quicker and Bertens took advantage of Halep’s sluggish form to seal the deal in straight sets. Coming back to the present, I knew that the same thing would play out for Barty in the 2021 Cincinnati Masters final when the Australian faced Teichmann. In the first set, Barty broke in the eighth game. This was followed by breaks in the first, third, and fifth games of the second set. Teichmann broke in sixth game. But Barty broke again in the seventh game to claim the title.

# **2022 AUSTRALIAN OPEN – WOMEN’S SINGLES**

Barty came into the tournament under pressure because she was dealt a tough draw. But her difficult draw was completely depleted and decimated by the upset bug. As a result, she secured her first home Grand Slam without dropping a set:

1. Tsurenko: 6-0 6-1
   1. Five aces
   2. Zero double faults
2. Lucia Bronzetti (ITALY): 6-1 6-1
   1. Eight aces
   2. Two double faults
3. Giorgi: 6-2 6-3
   1. Four aces
   2. Two double faults
4. Anisimova: 6-4 6-3
   1. Seven aces
   2. Three double faults
5. Jessica Pegula (USA): 6-2 6-0
   1. Six aces
   2. Two double faults
6. Keys: 6-1 6-3
   1. Five aces
   2. Zero double faults
7. Collins: 6-3 7-6[7-2]
   1. 10 aces
   2. Three double faults

I chose not to focus on any specific match for Barty. Barty was slated to face Osaka in the fourth round, Sakkari in the quarterfinals, Krejčíková in the semifinals, and either Muguruza, Sabalenka, or Kontaveit in the final. But once Muguruza and Kontaveit both lost in the second round, the upsets continued. Osaka lost in the third round, Sakkari and Sabalenka both dropped their fourth-round matches, then Krejčíková crashed out in the quarterfinals. With these upsets, I could tell that history was about to repeat itself. When Serena won the 2014 US Open without dropping a set, she also dealt with this situation, but with different opponents. Ultimately, the Australian joined Serena as the second woman to win the title without dropping a set. “We made a massive focus to keep this tournament light and the experience of playing at the Australian Open at our home Grand Slam as something fun. We made the decision as a team in September last year that we wanted to stop, take a breath, and prepare ourselves for the best possible January.”

# **2022 MEXICAN OPEN**

The Mexican Open used to be held at the at the Princess Mundo Imperial until the 2020 edition. After the 2020 edition, it became an ATP event only. After it was played at the Princess Mundo Imperial in 2021, the tournament changed to a new location at the Arena GNP Seguros in 2022. In his 2022 season, Nadal won the Melbourne Summer Set and a record breaking 21st Grand Slam title at the Australian Open. After he won the Australian Open, he claimed another title at the Mexican Open without losing a set:

1. Kudla: 6-3 6-2
2. Stefan Kozlov (USA): 6-0 6-3
3. Tommy Paul (USA): 6-0 7-6[7-5]
4. Medvedev: 6-3 6-3
5. Norrie: 6-4 6-4

I chose to write about Nadal’s quarterfinal win against Paul. Paul possesses a strong forehand and solid footwork at the baseline. In the first set, Nadal broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games. In the second set, Paul broke in the first, fifth, and seventh games. But Nadal returned the favor with breaks in the fourth and 10th games.

# **2022 MIAMI OPEN**

Iga Świątek (POLAND) has aggressive, all-court playing style. Since her game revolves around offense, her playing style names her with her big serve, topspin, and signature backhand-down-the line. She tends to play with margin and careful point construction. Her strengths include her speed, movement, court coverage, footwork, and point construction. This helped her win the first two titles of her career without dropping a set:

**2020 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPION]**

1. Vondroušová: 6-1 6-2
2. Hsieh: 6-1 6-4
3. Genie Bouchard (CANADA): 6-3 6-2
4. Halep: 6-1 6-2
5. Martina Trevisan: 6-3 6-1
6. Nadia Podoroska (ARGENTINA): 6-2 6-1
7. Sonya Kenin (USA): 6-4 6-1

**2021 ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL**

1. Madison Brengle (USA): 6-3 6-4
2. Maddison Inglis (AUSTRALIA): 6-1 6-3
3. Collins: 6-2 3-0 RETIRED
4. Teichmann: 6-3 6-2
5. Bencic: 6-2 6-2

One year after the 2020 Miami Open was cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic, the fans were allowed back in 2021, even though the capacity was much smaller. But in the 2022 edition, the tournament returned to fullcapacity. Świątek’s form in the tournament was outstanding. Despite being dealt a tough draw, she secured the biggest title of her career without losing a set:

1. Golubic: 6-2 6-0
2. Brengle: 6-0 6-3
3. Coco Gauff (USA): 6-3 6-1
4. Kvitová: 6-3 6-3
5. Pegula: 6-2 7-5
6. Osaka: 6-4 6-0

Pegula has a solid, aggressive baseline game. She has a terrific sense of when to rally and pull the trigger. She also has simple power from the baseline. In the first set, Świątek broke in the first and seventh games. In the second set, Pegula broke in the fourth, sixth, and 10th games. But Świątek responded with four breaks of her own in the fifth, seventh, ninth, and 11th games.

Osaka is an aggressive baseline player. She has excellent raw power on her forehand and serve. She likes to control the game from the back court. She can hit the ball on the rise and take time away from her opponents. She also uses her forehand as an offensive weapon to control the rallies. Her two-handed backhand is a set up shot for her forehand. She can blend offense and defense together, especially when she adds plenty of topspin and margin on her groundstrokes. In the first game of the first set, Osaka had to save two break points in a tricky 10-minute, seven-deuce game. Then, Świątek broke in the fifth game. This was followed by three more breaks in the first, third, and fifth games of the second set.

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I hope my readers enjoyed reading about consistency in tennis. Stay tuned for updates! In the meanwhile, though, feel free to watch these match highlights! With some of these YouTube links, I didn’t write about some of these matches at all! But they were worth checking out!

# **AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gcMN5BHvHk>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ox8uWPCn0I>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqYKxmGc1Ys>

**WIMBLEDON**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4n3JhIrJrQ>

**US OPEN**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F99Kz2eptqM

# **TENNIS WEBSITES**

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