When “consistency” comes to mind, what occurs to me? Do I think of myself doing Zumba dance fitness workouts and choreography seven days a week on my living room floor? Could it be when I get my office work done by the end of the week on Fridays so that I can start fresh on Mondays? 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.

Tennis is played between two individuals [singles] or two teams of two players each [doubles]. The game is played on a rectangular court divided by a net. The main goal is to hit the ball over the net and into the opponent’s court so that the opponent can’t return the ball. The court is marked for matches, with specific boundary white lines. The game is played on different surfaces, such as carpet, clay, grass, or hard courts, each of which changes the game strategy. The sport is scored in points, games, and sets. Points are awarded, based on the rallies, games are won by accumulating points, and sets are won by winning a specified number of games. The scoring system includes terms like “love” [zero points], “15”, “30”, “40”, and “deuce”. Matches are best-of-three sets for women and best-of-five sets for men in the Grand Slams. To win a set, a player must be the first to win six games with a margin of at least two games. If the set reaches a 6-6 tie, a tiebreaker is played to determine the winner of that set. The tiebreaker is the first player to reach seven points with an edge of at least two points.

My thesis statement showcases players and doubles teams reaching finals without dropping a set. It is an incredible achievement that highlights the skill, stability, and authority of individual players and doubles teams. The other key factors are skill, technique, awareness, fitness, and health. For me though, it doesn’t matter how many titles a player wins. I believe that reaching finals without dropping a set already makes a player a winner, because their stability is solid from start to finish. I chose to write about women’s singles, men’s singles, and mixed doubles matches. First, I added headings with the player’s name and team name. Next, I listed all the finals as my subheadings. For the results that are withdrawals, walkovers, and three-set finals, I’ll highlight the results in yellow with red text. I’ll either analyze certain matches from specific rounds, or I’ll sum up the main heading with all my subheadings.

# **SERENA WILLIAMS (USA)**

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

**1999 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [RUNNERS-UP] SCORE**

**PARTNER – MAX MIRNYI (BELARUS)**

1. Rennae Stubbs (AUSTRALIA/Jim Grabbs (USA) 6-1 7-6[2]
2. Elena Likhovtseva (RUSSIA)/Jeff Tarango (USA) 6-4 6-4
3. Els Callen (BELGIUM)/Chris Haggard (SOUTH AFRICA) 6-3 6-4
4. Manon Bollengraf (NETHERLANDS)/Pablo Albano (ARGENTINA) 6-4 6-4
5. Mariaan De Swardt (SOUTH AFRICA)/David Adams (SOUTH AFRICA) 6-4 4-6 7-6[5]

**1999 FABER GRAND PRIX [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

**PARTNER – VENUS WILLIAMS (USA)**

1. Anne-Gaëlle Sidot (FRANCE)/Elena Pampoulova (GERMANY) 6-1 6-1
2. Manon Bollengraf (NETHERLANDS)/Caroline Vis (NETHERLANDS) 6-1 6-4
3. Elena Likhovtseva (RUSSIA)/Ai Sugiyama (JAPAN) 6-2 7-6[8]
4. Alexandra Fusai (FRANCE)/Nathalie Tauziat (FRANCE) 5-7 6-2 6-2

**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 FRENCH OPEN [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

**PARTNER – VENUS WILLIAMS (USA)**

1. Amanda Coetzer (SOUTH AFRICA)/Inés Gorrochategui (ARGENTINA) 6-2 6-3
2. Amy Frazier (USA)/Katie Schlukebir (USA) 6-3 6-2
3. Vanessa Menga (BRAZIL)/Elena Pampoulova (GERMANY) 6-1 6-3
4. Els Callen (BELGIUM)/Rita Grande (ITALY) 6-0 7-5
5. Lindsay Davenport (USA)/Mary Pierce (FRANCE) 6-4 6-1
6. Martina Hingis (SWITZERLAND)/Anna Kournikova (RUSSIA) 6-3 6-7[2] 8-6

**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 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

**PARTNER – VENUS WILLIAMS (USA)**

1. Rita Grande (ITALY)/Patty Schnyder (SWITZERLAND) 6-3 6-1
2. Casey Dellacqua (AUSTRALIA/Nicole Sewell (AUSTRALIA) 6-3 6-2
3. Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUSSIA)/Martina Navratilova (USA) 6-2 6-3
4. Kim Clijsters (BELGIUM)/Ai Sugiyama (JAPAN) 6-4 7-5
5. Lindsay Davenport (USA)/Lisa Raymond (USA) 6-2 6-2
6. Virginia Ruano Pascual (SPAIN)/Paola Suárez (ARGENTINA) 4-6 6-4 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 held between March and April. Alongside the Indian Wells Masters, which is held in Palm Desert Springs, CA, the Miami Open 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. The Indian Wells Masters and Miami Open are the only two tournaments, besides the four Grand Slams, where the main draw extends beyond eight days. The tournament was held at the Tennis Center at Crandon Park in Key Biscayne, Florida from 1987 through 2018. Since then, the venue shifted to Miami Gardens at the Hard Rock Stadium.

Henin has an all-court playing style. Her footwork, balance, and court coverage let her change from defense to aggression. Her one-handed backhand is hit flat with heavy topspin and slice as a drop shot to break up the pace of the rally. She uses her forehand to dictate the rally. Henin broke 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 when she served for the match in the 10th game. But Serena broke in the 10th game and held to love in the 11th game. The 12th game turned into a **MUST-HOLD** game for Henin, because the Belgian was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** 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 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

**PARTNER – VENUS WILLIAMS (USA)**

1. Tatiana Poutchek (BELARUS)/Anastasia Rodionova (AUSTRALIA) 6-0 6-3
2. Marta Domachowska (POLAND)/Aga Radwańska (POLAND) 6-0 6-4
3. Anabel Medina Garrigues (SPAIN)/Virginia Ruano Pascual (SPAIN) 6-1 6-4
4. Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA)/Sania Mirza (INDIA) 6-4 6-3
5. Nathalie Dechy (FRANCE)/Casey Dellacqua (AUSTRALIA) 6-3 6-3
6. Lisa Raymond (USA)/Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) 6-2 6-2

**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

**2009 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

**PARTNER – VENUS WILLIAMS (USA)**

1. Virginie Razzano (FRANCE)/Aravane Rezaï (FRANCE) 6-3 6-3
2. Sabine Lisicki (GERMANY)/Aleksandra Wozniak (CANAD) 6-1 6-4
3. Yan Zi (CHINA)/Zheng Jie (CHINA) 6-0 6-0
4. Anna-Lena Grönefeld (GERMANY)/Vania King (USA) 6-2 7-5
5. Cara Black (ZIMBABWE)/Liezel Huber (USA) 6-1 6-2
6. Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA)/Rennae Stubbs (AUSTRALIA) 7-6[4] 6-4

**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 Slams alongside the Australian Open, French Open, and US Open. It is played on outdoor grass courts with two roofs over two main courts. It takes place over two weeks in late June and early July, on the last Monday in June and ends with the singles finals on Saturday and Sunday in 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 has a playing style characterized by her energetic approach to the game. She likes to stay close to the baseline and take the ball early. The pace and depth in her groundstrokes let her dictate points from the baseline. She possesses exceptional speed and footwork to retrieve shots from different positions. In the first set, Serena whitewashed Cibulková with breaks in the second, fourth and sixth games. This was followed by 11 straight service holds in the second set. After Serena held to love in the 11th game, the 12th game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Cibulková. Cibulková was serving to force a second-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. Cibulková had a game point to send the second set into a tiebreak. But instead of forcing a second-set tiebreak, Serena won Cibulková’s next two service points to seal the match.

Li has an effective playing style. She likes to dictate points from the back of the court with her groundstrokes to control the rallies. Her ability to create power let her put her opponents on defense. Her agility and movement on the court helps her recover difficult shots. Serena 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. But she got pegged back to deuce with two forehand errors and a double fault. Serena earned a break point after Li hit a second consecutive double fault. Then, Li missed a forehand volley to drop serve. From triple game point in the 11th game, Serena won six straight points to earn the crucial break and serve for the first set in the 12th game. In the 12th game, Serena missed her first service point with a backhand error. But she smoothly won her last four service points of the set. She crushed 13 winners to only five unforced errors and did not face a single break point 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 win the match. Things could have been tough for Serena if Li held to love in the 11th game. Had that been the situation, Serena would have been dealing with a **MUST-HOLD** game in the 12th game to force a first-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the first set. But Serena did an excellent job of taking advantage of Li’s dip in form when she won six straight points from triple game point in the 11th game. This was followed by four more breaks in the fifth, seventh, eighth and ninth games of the second set.

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

1. Round of 128 Bojana Jovanovski (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

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 on the US Labor Day holiday weekend. Like Wimbledon, it is the oldest tennis championship in the world. The tournament was played in 1881 on grass 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.

Wozniacki is a defensive baseliner with a counterpunching playing style. She can cover the court with her speed to turn defense into offense. She can use her backhand to oppose her opponents’ shots and redirect the ball. While her game is mainly based on defense, she can mix in offensive shots as needed and flatten them out to take control of the points. After Serena won 2010 Wimbledon without dropping a set, she ended her season due to injuries and dropped out of the top 100 in the WTA rankings. But she won her two titles of the 2011 season in Stanford and Toronto. This helped her secure a top 32 seed for the US Open. Serena’s draw was littered with tricky potential banana skins with numerous top 10 players and Wozniacki was the number one ranked player in the world. But when Wozniacki and Serena faced off in the semifinals, the Dane did not display that same form. The first set featured breaks in the fourth, sixth, seventh, and eighth games. This was followed by three more breaks in the third, ninth, and 10th games of the second set. With this win, Serena dropped only 29 games in six matches. Even though Serena came up short to Stosur in the title match, she managed to end the season as the 12th ranked player in the world. “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

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

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

**2012 SUMMER OLYMPICS [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

**PARTNER – VENUS WILLIAMS (USA)**

1. Sorana Cîrstea (ROMANIA)/Simona Halep (ROMANIA) 6-3 6-2
2. Angelique Kerber (GERMANY)/Sabine Lisicki (GERMANY) 6-2 7-5
3. Sara Errani (ITALY)/Roberta Vinci (ITALY) 6-1 6-1
4. Maria Kirilenko (RUSSIA)/Nadia Petrova (RUSSIA) 7-5 6-4
5. Andrea Hlaváčková (CZECH REPUBLIC)/ Lucie Hradecká (CZECH REPUBLIC) 6-4 6-4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Australian Open series is a group of tune-up tournaments for the Australian Open. The Brisbane International is the first tournament in the Australian Open series. It takes place at the Queensland Tennis Center in Brisbane. Serena cemented herself head and shoulders above the rest of the players in the world because she accomplished the rarest feat in the history of this sport. She became the only player to win the title two consecutive years in a row without dropping a set both times in 2013 and 2014. Based on this achievement, I chose to write about her title win against Azárenka. Azárenka is an aggressive baseline player with all-around skills. She moves her opponents around until she creates the opportunity to hit a winner. Her movement, speed, court coverage, and footwork mix 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 at risk of losing the second set when she dropped her first two service points in the 10th game. But she won four straight service points to a key hold. While this next 11th game wasn’t necessarily a **MUST-HOLD** game for Azárenka, it was still an important one after she couldn’t convert on her opportunity on Serena’s first two service points in the previous 10th game. As a result, Serena broke in the 11th game. With her 2013 and 2014 title wins, Serena maintained her perfect, lucky streak of 16 sets won and zero sets lost. Even though Serena chose not to participate in this tournament anymore after she won the title in 2013 and 2014, I think this was the excellent choice she made in her career, because that’s when I knew she left large shoes for everyone else to fill. In my opinion, there were neither positives nor negatives to this situation. The good news is that the players didn’t have to worry about facing Serena in their draw. But the bad news is that everyone has now discovered that matching Serena’s legacy at this tournament was easier said than done.

**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 at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia, from mid to late January. It is the first of the four Grand Slam tennis events held before the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. It was first held in 1905 before it became a Grand Slam in 1924. It is the first Grand Slam to feature indoor play during inclement weather or extreme heat on Rod Laver Arena, John Cain Arena, and Margaret Court Arena with retractable roofs. Until 1988, it was played on grass courts. Since then, three types of hardcourt surfaces have been used – green-colored Rebound Ace up to 2007, blue Plexicushion from 2008 to 2019, and blue GreenSet since 2020.

When two tennis players reach the semifinals without dropping a set, it’s tricky to predict who will come out on top in their respective matches, because both players are in brilliant form. If both players have easy paths to the semifinals, it’s not clear whether they’ll execute their game plan at that same level against someone that matches their level. It always adds extra pressure and expectations. So, managing this pressure and maintaining focus can be challenging. On umpteen occasions, both the champion and runner-up can reach a final without dropping a set. But I always find it difficult to decide on who I wanted to analyze in that tournament. So, I chose to make an easy win-win situation not myself and my readers [immediate family, extended family of relatives, friends] to omit those finals. Serena and Venus both reached the semifinals without dropping a set. But Serena got the job done better than Venus when she won all 12 sets in six matches with her semifinal win against Lučić-Baroni, while Venus had to fight back from losing a first-set tiebreak against Vandeweghe. So, I chose to compare both their semifinal matches.

Venus has an aggressive playing style. She can hit the ball with pace and depth to put pressure on her opponents and set up the opportunities to finish points. She is an exceptional athlete with speed and quickness on the court. Her movement lets her cover the court well to reach difficult shots. Like Venus, Vandeweghe also has an aggressive playing style. Her serve has speed and placement, which lets her dictate the rallies from the first point. The pace and depth on her groundstrokes let take control of the points and put pressure on her opponents. Her volleying skills at the net add flexibility to her playing style. In the first set, both players traded breaks in the first two games before Vandeweghe sealed the first-set tiebreak. Then, Venus came back in the second set with breaks in the third and fifth games. This was followed by two more breaks in the first and ninth games of the third set.

Lučić-Baroni has an aggressive playing style with her powerful baseline game. She likes to dictate points with her groundstrokes. The pace and depth on her groundstrokes let her control the rallies. Her movement allows her to cover the court effectively and retrieve shots. Serena received serve in this match. In the first set, Serena broke in the third and fifth games. After she successfully served out the first set to love in the eighth game, the first set duration was 25 minutes, which was exactly half the time of Venus’s first set tiebreak loss against Vandeweghe. In the second set, Serena broke in the same third and fifth games, then she sealed the match with a final break in the seventh game.

# **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**

1. Round Robin Jan Hájek (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Round Robin Alun Jones (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Paul Goldstein (USA) Win 6-4 7-5
4. Semifinal Joachim Johansson (SWEDEN) Win 6-3 6-2
5. Final Chris Guccione (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-7[6] 6-4

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

1. Round of 64 Daniele Bracciali (ITALY) Win 7-6[4] 6-4
2. Round of 32 Michaël Llodra (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-1
3. Round of 16 Feliciano López (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-3
4. Quarterfinal Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-4
5. Semifinal Andy Murray (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-0 6-1
6. Final Guillermo Cañas (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-2 6-4

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

1. Round of 128 Benjamin Becker (GERMANY) Win 6-0 6-2 7-6[5]
2. Round of 64 Simone Bolelli (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-2 6-2
3. Round of 32 Sam Querrey (USA) Win 6-3 6-1 6-3
4. Round of 16 Lleyton Hewitt (AUSTRALIA) Win 7-5 6-3 6-3
5. Quarterfinal David Ferrer (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-3 7-5
6. Semifinal Roger Federer (SWITZERLAND) Win 7-5 6-3 7-6[5]
7. Final Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRANCE) Win 4-6 6-4 6-3 7-6[2]

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

1. Round of 64 Andreas Seppi (ITALY) Win 6-3 7-6[3]
2. Round of 32 Philipp Kohlschreiber (GERMANY) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Round of 16 Guillermo Cañas (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Quarterfinal Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Win 7-6[5] 6-2
5. Semifinal Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-2
6. 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

**2023 CINCINNATI MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (SPAIN) Win 6-4 RETIRED
2. Round of 16 Gaël Monfils (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Taylor Fritz (USA) Win 6-0 6-4
4. Semifinal Sacsha Zverev (GERMANY) Win 7-6[5] 7-5
5. Final Carlos Alcaraz (SPAIN) Win 5-7 7-6[7] 7-6[4]

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.

Alcaraz is an all-court, all-round player with an aggressive baseline playing style. He can hit his forehand from any position with topspin and margin. He can redirect his backhand down the line. His drop shot is the key to his game, as he often combines the heaviness of his groundstrokes to push his opponents back into defense, with a well-placed, disguised drop shot. He has secure movement and court-coverage, where he can defuse his opponent’s groundstroke or drop shot attempts. When Djokovic reached the final without dropping a set, this was the third time he accomplished the feat, as he first mastered the deed back-to-back two years in a row during his runner-up finishes in 2008 and 2009. Djokovic and Alcaraz both displayed their best tennis for the men’s singles final of the tournament’s history of all-times. In the first set, Djokovic broke in the sixth game, while Alcaraz broke in the seventh and 11th games. In the second set, Alcaraz broke in the third game, but Djokovic broke in the eighth game and saved a match point in the second-set tiebreak to send the match into a final set. In the third set, Djokovic broke in the seventh game. The ninth game was a **MUST-HOLD** game for Alcaraz, because he was serving to stay in the match. Djokovic had two match points on Alcaraz’s serve. But Alcaraz held on to force Djokovic to serve for the match in the 10th game. In the 10th game, Djokovic had two match points on his serve, only for Alcaraz to break and hold in the 11th game. Now, it was Djokovic’s turn to deal with a **MUST-HOLD** game, because he was serving to force a final-set tiebreak **AND** stay in the match. Once Djokovic sent the match into a final-set tiebreak, the Serbian took home the title with a minibreak lead. It was sad that we couldn’t have two winners. But when I collected the match stats, both guys still played excellent tennis in the four-hour duration of this match. Neither one of these players did anything wrong in their game. It only came down to who had more energy in the tank to go the distance in three sets and that’s where Djokovic came out on top. Based on the match stats, Alcaraz was the better player for most of the match, because the Spaniard outfoxed the Serbian in the numbers for first serve percentage, first serve points won, break point conversions and winners. But even though Alcaraz dominated 67% of the categories, Djokovic had fewer unforced errors and won more second serve points.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PLAYER** | Alcaraz | Djokovic |
| **1st SERVE %** | 64% | 59% |
| **1st SERVE POINTS WON** | 71% | 57% |
| **2nd SERVE POINTS WON** | 56% | 70% |
| **BREAK POINTS WON** | 40% [4 of 10] | 18% [3 of 16] |
| **WINNERS** | 42 | 22 |
| **UNFORCED ERRORS** | 28 | 20 |

# **RAFAEL NADAL (SPAIN)**

# Nadal was born right-handed but plays left-handed. His baseline game revolves around his heavy topspin groundstrokes, speedy footwork, and persistent court coverage, which makes him a counterpuncher. His athleticism and speed make him an excellent defender because he can construct winning shots from tough positions. His topspin forehand lets him hit deep and heavy shots as winners from defensive positions. He can use his backhand to redirect the ball with pace and accuracy. He can also finish points at the net with volleys and smashes when necessary. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Federer is an all-court player. He primarily plays from the baseline but is also comfortable at the net. He has a powerful, accurate smash and effectively performs rare elements of his game, such as the backhand smash and skyhook, half-volley, jump smash [slam dunk] and the SABR [Sneak Attack by Roger] return, which is a half-volley attack on his opponent’s second serve. He has efficient movement and footwork, which lets him hit inside forehands. The variety with his forehand lets him hit with either topspin or pace. He uses a one-handed backhand with slice to deliver passing shots. Despite his strengths, his biggest weakness is that his one-handed backhand causes him to go for his shots too much, too soon. He also has poor records in break point opportunity conversions because his opponents can easily put it under pressure when he’s dealing with high-bouncing balls on his backhand wing. Like Federer, Tsitsipas is also a baseline player with an all-court playing style. He possesses a powerful, accurate serve as a strong weapon in his game when he volleys to finish points at the net. He can create pace on his forehand to finish points off his first serve. But he also shares the same weakness with Federer in going for his shots too much, too soon, especially since his second serves lack pace and is a vulnerability with his return game. 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 pointed out that Tsitsipas’s game matched up better with Federer than Nadal. I knew that if multiple people said the same thing about Tsitsipas in this situation, there had to be some truth in their viewpoints. But I also seized this opportunity to collect the data of Tsitsipas’s match stats from his win against Federer and his loss to Nadal to uncover the truth. I organized those stats into two separate tables. That way, I could get a clear idea on Tsitsipas’s contrasting forms in each of 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] |

Tsitsipas’s fourth-round win against Federer was a match between two all-court players. The first serve percentage, number of winners, first serve points won, and second serve points won were all close in proximity. The lone break of serve for the match came in the 12th game of the third set. But when Tsitsipas lost to Nadal, those stats took a hard hit. His winners-unforced errors ratio count slid into the negative category, he only won 30% of his second serve points, and dropped serve six times. In the first set, Nadal broke in the third and seventh games. This was followed by the lone break of the second set in the ninth game. This was followed by three more breaks in the first, third, and fifth games of the third set. I was initially confused as to why the oddsmakers predicted that Tsitsipas would push Nadal to four, if not five sets, in the semifinals. But when several people pointed out how Tsitsipas’s game slid from incredible against Federer to terrible against Nadal, I could see why his game transitioned from crafty to predictable. Even though Tsitsipas had a higher first serve percentage and matched Nadal with the same number of aces, he completely came unglued with spraying unforced errors at the wrong time. He did put up a brave fight for the first two sets. But after Nadal successfully served out the second set in the 10th game, it simply turned into Tsitsipas going for too much, too soon, on all his shots.

**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

# **MARIA SHARAPOVA (RUSSIA)**

Sharapova has a unique playing style. She likes to position herself behind the baseline to release powerful, deep, flat groundstrokes. She can hit the ball early to take time away from her opponents and control the points. 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

# **ASHLEIGH BARTY (AUSTRALIA)**

Barty has an all-court game with a crafty playing style. She is proficient in playing both offensive and defensive tennis. She is skilled at adapting her style, based on her opponents and match conditions. Her game lets her feel comfortable playing at the baseline, as well as approaching the net. Her ability to transition effortlessly between her different playing styles yields her a well-rounded player. She can use her backhand as a slice to change the pace and create opportunities to move forward to the net. Her mental toughness and composure on court help her stay calm under pressure to make smart decisions even in tight situations. No matter what the result is, she shows no signs of panic, frustration, or anger. Even if she loses a point, she calmly walks away, as if nothing happened. She may look subdued, but her composure is an absolute gift to the umpteen millions of global tennis fans worldwide who love to watch this sport. This helped her win multiple 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

Since I faced the same challenge as I did with the Williams sisters at the 2017 Australian Open at in the 2021 Cincinnati Masters, I chose to write about Barty’s semifinal win against Kerber and the second semifinal between Teichmann and Plíšková, especially Plíšková reached the semifinals without dropping a set.

Like Nadal, Kerber is naturally right-handed but plays left-handed. She has excellent defensive skills and counterpunching abilities. She can absorb and redirect her pace effectively at the precise moment to take control of the points, which makes her a skilled counterpuncher. Her footwork lets her retrieve balls to stay in rallies. In the first set, Barty broke twice in the sixth and eighth games. In the second set, Barty broke in the second game to lead by a set and a break. Then, Kerber broke in the third and fifth games to lead by a break. But instead of being pushed to a deciding, third set, Barty broke in the sixth and 12th games to seal the match in straight sets.

Plíšková has an aggressive baseline game. Her serve and groundstrokes let her control the tempo of the match. Her strongest groundstroke is her forehand, which she can hit flat with pace and power. Even though she mainly plays from the baseline until she creates the opportunity to approach the net and hit low-risk volley winners, she will occasionally use the serve-and-volley tactic. Teichmann has a versatile baseline game. She can create effective power and use spin to control the ball. Her lefty forehand is her strongest weapon because she can use it to dictate the rallies. While her game is mainly played from the baseline, she can come to the net and finish points with volleys. The oddsmakers favored Plíšková to defeat Teichmann in straight sets. But Teichmann broke in the fifth and seventh games and successfully 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.

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

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

After Barty won her first WTA title in Malaysia in 2017, she slowly built her way up in 2018 with two titles in Nottingham and Zhuhai. Her 2019 season saw her win five titles across four different surfaces in Miami, Roland Garros, Birmingham, and the WTA Finals as the number one player in the world. She carried this success into 2020 with her first title on home soil in Adelaide. After she reached the semifinals in her next two tournaments, she skipped the rest of the 2020 season because of her concerns related to travelling during the COVID-19 pandemic. When she came back in 2021, she won a second title on home soil at the Yarra Valley Classic. This was followed by four different titles on three different surfaces in Miami, Stuttgart, Wimbledon, and Cincinnati. After she reached the third round at the US Open, she took the rest of the season off to get ready for the 2022 season once she secured the year-end world number one ranking. Once Barty won a third title on home soil at the Adelaide International, her next tournament was the Australian Open. She initially came into the tournament under pressure, because her world number one ranking was in contention with two other players and she was dealt a tough draw. But her tough draw became easy after her toughest opponents got sent packing their bags in the early rounds. Now, I will tell my readers – it is rare that history can repeat itself when a player’s tough path becomes an easy one. But I saw this firsthand myself because Serena also dealt with this same situation when she won the 2014 US Open without dropping a set.

# **ANDY MURRAY (GREAT BRITAIN)**

Murray plays an all-court, defensive baseline playing style. 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

# **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. Because of his height, he has a powerful first serve. He can hit long, flat groundstrokes to wear his opponents down during long baseline rallies. Even though he lacks power and spin, he can place the ball precisely between the lines. He has superb court sense to move the ball around and change the pace of the rally. He prefers to adopt a deep position at the back of the court to hit, which lets him hit full-swing groundstrokes rather than blocking the serve back into play. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **JANNIK SINNER (ITALY)**

Sinner began both skiing and playing tennis at the age of three. He won a national championship in giant slalom at age eight and was a national runner-up at the age of 12. When he was training in skiing, he gave up tennis at the age of seven. At the age of 13, he gave up skiing to pursue a tennis career. He credits his background in skiing for improving his tennis skills. His game lets him dictate the rallies. He can create pace and topspin on his flat groundstrokes. His serve lets him set up opportunities to take control of the points. His quickness allows him to cover the court effectively. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2023 VIENNA OPEN RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Ben Shelton (USA) Win 7-6[2] 7-5
2. Round of 16 Lorenzo Sonego (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Frances Tiafoe (USA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Semifinals Andrey Rublev (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 7-6[5]
5. Final Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[7] 4-6 6-3

# **SACSHA ZVEREV (GERMANY)**

Zverev has a powerful baseline game. His groundstrokes are hit with depth and pace, which lets him control points. His backhand can be hit either flat or with topspin. He can create a high level of pace and accuracy on his serve. He is an effective returner on second serves with his ability to capitalize on opponents’ weaker serves. His agility and court coverage allow him to defend against opponents' shots and retrieve balls effectively with his height. 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

**2023 HAMBURG EUROPEN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Alex Molčan (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-0 6-3
2. Round of 16 Maximilian Marterer (GERMANY) Win 6-3 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Luca Van Assche (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Semifinal Arthur Fils (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final Laslo Djere (SERBIA) Win 7-5 6-3

# **Petra Kvitová (CZECH REPUBLIC)**

Kvitová has an all-court playing style. She can control the rallies from the baseline with her powerful, flat groundstrokes. As a lefty, she can use her forehand to create angles and spins on her groundstrokes, as well as deliver a strong serve. She can mix in slices, drop shots, to change the pace. 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

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

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

# **AGA Radwańska (POLAND)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# **LEYLAH FERNANDEZ (CANADA)**

# Like Nadal and Kerber, Fernandez was born right-handed, but plays left-handed. Her groundstrokes let her control the points from the baseline, especially on her forehand. Her serve also lets her control the pace. Her all-court style of play lets her take advantage in the rallies and seize opportunities to move forward to the net. This helped her reach two junior Grand Slam finals and her first senior WTA final, all 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 Anatasia Potapova (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 7-5
6. Semifinal Renata Zarazúa (MEXICO) Win 6-3 6-3
7. Final Heather Watson (GREAT BRITAIN) Loss 6-4 6-7[8] 6-1

# **SHUAI ZHANG (CHINA)**

Zhang possesses a powerful, flat baseline game. She uses her groundstrokes to take control of the rallies. Her quick, efficient swing lets her create pace. She can use her serve to gain advantages in points and finish them off with precise volleys. Her speed lets her recover balls and stall opponents’ shots effectively. This helped her reach her first indoor hard-court final and multiple doubles finals with various partners across two surfaces, in her 2022 season, all without dropping a set:

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

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

The Lyon Open is held annually in the first week of March in Lyon, France. It debuted on the WTA tour in the 2020 season and is played on indoor hard courts. The matches are held at the Palais des Sports de Gerland or another suitable venue in Lyon.

Just like Serena at the 2017 Australian Open and Barty at the 2021 Cincinnati Masters, I chose to write about Zhang’s semifinal win against Garcia, as well as the second semifinal between Cîrstea and Yastremska, since Cîrstea also reached the semifinals without dropping a set. But I also decided to write about the final between Zhang and Yastremska.

Garcia has an aggressive baseline game. She can control the points with her groundstrokes. She can hit her backhand either crosscourt or down-the-line. Her volleys and overheads let her finish points at the net, and she can gain free points with her serve. Her movement and court coverage help her recover balls during baseline rallies. In the first set, Zhang broke in the first and seventh games. This was followed by three more breaks in the first, sixth, and 11th games of the second set.

Cîrstea is a baseline player. She likes to control the rallies with her forehand. Even though she prefers to play behind the baseline, she can also approach the net to finish points when she sets up the opportunity with her groundstrokes. She has solid athleticism with her ability to cover the court. Yastremska is a baseline player. She likes to take control of the points with her groundstrokes. Her forehand is her strongest weapon because she can control the rallies with that wing. Despite being a baseline player, she can come to the net and finish points, when she can set up the opportunities with her groundstrokes. Her speed also lets her defend and counterpunch. The 2022 Lyon Open kicked off when Russia invaded Ukraine. Yastremska was living with her family in Odesa before she and her younger sister escaped to settle down in Lyon. When Yastremska kicked off her campaign, she saved two match points in her opener. After she scored two more straight set wins in the Round of 16 and quarterfinals, a stern test came in the semifinals. In the first set, Cîrstea broke in the fourth game, while Yastremska broke in the seventh game. Yastremska saved two set points on her serve in the 12th game and sealed the first set tiebreak. In the second set, Yastremska broke in the second game. But Cîrstea broke in the fifth and ninth games to send the match to a deciding set. The third set featured breaks in the second, fourth, ninth, and 10th games.

After Cîrstea dropped the first-set tiebreak, I realized that regardless of whether Cîrstea won in three sets or Yastremska won in straight or three sets, the result wouldn’t have mattered. Either one of these players would have to deal with the fatigue factor much more than Zhang. In the final, Yastremska secured the lone break of the first set in the sixth game. This was followed by two more breaks in the first, second, and fourth games of the second set. In the third set, Yastremska broke in the second and sixth games. But Zhang broke in the third, seventh, and ninth games.

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

**PARTNER – COCO GAUFF (USA)**

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

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

**PARTNER – ELISE MERTENS (BELGIUM)**

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

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

Hingis possesses exceptional skills with her flexible playing style. Her coordination, placement, and timing help her rely on her groundstrokes to control the points. Her awareness lets her execute her strategic, intelligent play effectively. She can mix up her game with slices, drop shots, and lobs. Her quick reflexes and precise timing flare up her return game. This helped her reach multiple singles finals without dropping a set:

**1997 AUSTRALIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Barbara Rittner (GERMANY) Win 6-1 7-5
2. Round of 64 Lisa Raymond (USA) Win 6-4 6-2
3. Round of 32 Barbara Schett Eagle (AUSTRIA) Win 6-2 6-1
4. Round of 16 Ruxandra Dragomir Ilie (ROMANIA) Win 7-6[6] 6-1
5. Quarterfinal Irina Spîrlea (ROMANIA) Win 7-5 6-2
6. Semifinal Mary Joe Fernandez (USA) Win 6-1 6-3
7. Final Mary Pierce (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-2

**1997 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Anne Kremer (LUXEMBOURG) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Round of 64 Olga Barabanschikova (BELARUS) Win 6-2 6-2
3. Round of 32 Nicole Arendt (USA) Win 6-1 6-3
4. Round of 16 Sabine Appelmans (BELGIUM) Win 6-1 6-3
5. Quarterfinal Denisa Chládková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-2
6. Semifinal Anna Kournikova (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2
7. Final Jana Novotná (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 2-6 6-3 6-3

**1997 US OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Tami Whitlinger Jones (USA) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Round of 64 Denisa Chládková (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Round of 32 Elena Likhovtseva (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-2
4. Round of 16 Florencia Labat (ARGENTINA)  Win 6-0 6-2
5. Quarterfinal Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-2
6. Semifinal Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-2 6-4
7. Final Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-0 6-4

**1998 GERMAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Julie Halard-Decugis (FRANCE) Win 7-5 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Jennifer Capriati (USA) Win 6-1 6-3
3. Semifinal Barbara Schett Eagle (AUSTRIA) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Final Jana Novotná (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 7-5

**1999 CHARLESTON OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Conchita Martínez (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Natalia Zvereva (BELARUS0) Win 6-0 7-6[0]
3. Semifinal Jana Novotná (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-2 6-3
4. Final Anna Kournikova (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-3

**1999 GERMAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Gala León García (SPAIN) Win6-3 6-2
2. Round of 16 Elena Likhovtseva (RUSSIA)Win 6-4 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Barbara Schett Eagle (AUSTRIA) Win7-5 7-5
4. Semifinal Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (SPAIN) Win6-4 6-0
5. Final Julie Halard-Decugis (FRANCE) Win6-0 6-1

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

1. Round of 128 Amanda Hopmans (NETHERLANDS) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Round of 64 Amélie Mauresmo (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Round of 32 Květa Peschke (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Round of 16 Ruxandra Dragomir Ilie (ROMANIA) Win 6-3 7-6[5]
5. Quarterfinal Barbara Schwartz (AUSTRIA) Win 6-2 6-2
6. Semifinal Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (SPAIN) Win 6-3 6-2
7. Final Steffi Graf (GERMANY) Loss 4-6 7-5 6-2

**1999 CANADIAN OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Corina Morariu (USA) Win 6-0 6-3
2. Round of 16 Chanda Rubin (USA) Win 6-3 6-1
3. Quarterfinal Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-1
4. Semifinal Mary Pierce (FRANCE)Win 7-6[3] 6-3
5. Final Monica Seles (USA) Win 6-4 6-4

**1999 WTA FINALS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Sandrine Testud (FRANCE) Win 7-6[5] 7-6[5]
2. Quarterfinal Mary Pierce (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Semifinal Venus Williams (USA) Win 6-4 7-6[2]
4. Final Lindsay Davenport (USA) Loss 6-4 6-2

**2000 PAN PACIFIC OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Lisa Raymond (USA) Win 6-3 7-5
2. Quarterfinal Anna Kournikova (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-2
3. Semifinal Chanda Rubin (USA) Win 7-6[2] 6-4
4. Final Sandrine Testud (FRANCE) Win 6-3 7-5

**2000 MIAMI OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Maureen Drake (CANADA) Win 6-1 6-4
2. Round of 32 Anne-Gaëlle Sidot (FRANCE) Win 6-0 6-3
3. Round of 16 Kim Clijsters (BELGIUM) Win 6-0 6-4
4. Quarterfinal Amanda Coetzer (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-3 6-1
5. Semifinal Monica Seles (USA) Win 6-0 6-0
6. Final Lindsay Davenport (USA) Win 6-3 6-2

**2000 LIBEMA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Jana Nejedly (CANADA)  Win 6-0 6-2
2. Quarterfinal Cara Black (ZIMBABWE) Win WALKOVER
3. Semifinal Jennifer Capriati (USA) Win 7-5 6-2
4. Final Ruxandra Dragomir Ilie (ROMANIA) Win 6-2 3-0 RETIRED

**2000 STUTTGART OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Justine Henin (BELGIUM) Win 6-3 3-0 RETIRED
2. Quarterfinal Dominique Monami (BELGIUM) Win 6-2 6-1
3. Semifinal Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (SPAIN) Win 6-1 6-0
4. Final Kim Clijsters (BELGIUM) Win 6-0 6-3

**2000 PHILADELPHIA CHAMPIONSHIPS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Elena Bovina (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-1
2. Quarterfinal Anna Kournikova (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-0
3. Semifinal Nathalie Tauziat (FRANCE) Win 6-1 6-2
4. Final Lindsay Davenport (USA) Loss 7-6[7] 6-4

**2002 PAN PACIFIC OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Marlene Weingärtner (GERMANY) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Quaterfinal Tamarine Tanasugarn (THAILAND) Win 6-3 6-2
3. Semifinal Silvia Farina Elia (ITALY) Win 6-0 6-4
4. Final Monica Seles (USA) Win 7-6[6] 4-6 6-3

**2002 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Silvija Talaja (CROATIA) Win 6-0 6-1
2. Round of 32 Elena Likhovtseva (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-3
3. Round of 16 Cara Black (ZIMBABWE) Win 6-0 6-3
4. Quarterfinal Amanda Coetzer (SOUTH AFRICA) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Semifinal Monica Seles (USA) Win 6-3 6-2
6. Final Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Loss 6-3 6-4

**2006 CANADIAN OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Mara Santangelo (ITALY) Win 7-5 7-6[5]
2. Round of 16 Daniela Hantuchová (SLOVAKIA) Win 7-5 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[4] 6-3
4. Semifinal Anna Chakvetadze (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 3-1 RETIRED
5. Final Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Loss 6-2 6-3

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

1. Round of 32 Melinda Czink (HUNGARY) Win 6-1 6-2
2. Round of 16 Tzipi Obziler (ISRAEL) Win 6-2 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Tamarine Tanasugarn (THAILAND) Win 7-5 6-2
4. Semifinal Sania Mirza (INDIA) Win 6-1 6-0
5. Final Olga Puchkova (RUSSIA) Win 6-0 6-4

**2007 PAN PACIFIC OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Nicole Pratt (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-1 7-5
2. Quarterfinal Sam Stosur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-0 6-1
3. Semifinal Elena Dementieva (RUSSIA) Win 6-4 6-3
4. Final Ana Ivanović (SERBIA) Win 6-4 6-2

Hingis carried over her singles success with a productive partnership with Mirza. Mirza is an offensive baseline player. She relies on her strong baseline game to control the points. She has excellent volleying skills and is fearless to move forward to finish points at the net. She can set up attacks with sharp velocity off her groundstrokes. Hingis and Mirza’s contrasting playing styles helped them reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

**2015 WIMBLEDON [CHAMPIONS] SCORE**

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

Makarova is an all-court player with a strong baseline game. Her groundstrokes help her control the rallies from the baseline. She can finish points with well-executed volleys and smashes. Meanwhile, Vesnina is a flexible player. She has a well-rounded baseline game with her groundstrokes. Her strengths are her court coverage and net skills. When Hingis and Mirza faced Makarova and Vesnina in the title match, the Swiss-Miss Indian duo pulled off a comeback win against the Russians. In the first set, Makarova and Vesnina broke in the first and 11th games, while Hingis and Mirza broke in the second game. In the second set, both teams traded service holds for all 12 games, then Hingis and Mirza won the second set tiebreak. In the third 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 held in the eighth game to force Makarova and Vesnina to serve for the match in the ninth game. Instead of winning their third Grand Slam title, the Russians dropped serve in the ninth game and Hingis and Mirza held in the 10th game. After Hingis and Mirza bravely held in another **MUST-HOLD** 10th game, the tournament officials briefly paused the match to close the roof on Centre Court. When both teams returned, Hingis and Mirza broke in the 11th game and successfully served out the match to love in the 12th game. While the 11th game was not necessarily a **MUST-HOLD** game for Makarova and Vesnina, I still got the sense that it was a crucial one. Makarova and Vesnina were three games away from the win when they held in the seventh game. But at that point, the Russians looked ahead towards the finish line and went for too much, too soon.

# **CASEY DELLACQUA (AUSTRALIA)/SlAVA SHVEDOVA (KAZAKHSTAN)**

Dellacqua and Shvedova formed a unique partnership with their playing styles. Dellacqua can create spins and angles on her lefty forehand. She has the capability to simmer and finish points at the net. Her court coverage and movement help her engage in baseline rallies. Meanwhile, Shvedova has a flexible playing style. Her serve lets her create power on her groundstrokes and add skill at the net. This helped them reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

**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

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

Mattek-Sands and Šafářová formed a superb partnership with their playing styles. Mattek-Sands has an all-court game. She can control the points with her groundstrokes. She can move forward to finish points at the net with her volleying strength. She can use her serve to set up points. She can also mix in drop shots and slices to add variety to her game. Meanwhile, Šafářová has a strong, flat groundstroke game on her lefty forehand. Her groundstrokes let her control the points. This helped them win the 2016 Miami Open title without dropping a set:

**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

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

Dabrowski and Bopanna formed a special partnership with their playing styles. Dabrowski has a determined approach to help her control the points. She is a skilled volleyer and has excellent touch at the net. Her quick reflexes and solid footwork let her set up opportunities for her game. She can also create significant power on her groundstrokes. Meanwhile, Bopanna has a powerful aggressive playing style. He can use his big serve as a weapon to win easy points. He uses his forehand to control the rallies and put his opponents on defense. This helped them reach their first mixed doubles Grand Slam final without dropping a set:

**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

The French Open is held over two weeks at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, in late May each year. The French Open is a premier clay court championship in the world and the only Grand Slam tournament held on this surface. It is the second Grand Slam tournament, after the Australian Open before Wimbledon and the US Open. The slow pace and high bounce, along with the best-of-five-set men's singles matches makes it a physically demanding tournament. The tournament was first played on grass in 1891. From 1892 until 1907, the tournament was played on sand. Since then, it has been played on clay. The 2017 mixed doubles edition was my favorite. Even though I was born and raised in the US, Canada and India are two countries with special places in my heart. One, my birthday is on July 1st, which is also Canada’s national holiday, Canada Day. Two, India is the country where my family is from. Dabrowski and Bopanna only conceded 21 games in four matches. Now, I will tell my readers – it is extremely rare that a doubles team can reach their first Grand Slam final without dropping a set **OR** being pushed beyond the 7-5 set scoreline. But Hingis and Mirza did accomplish the feat two years ago at Wimbledon before Dabrowski and Bopanna followed suit in their shoes two years later at the French Open.

# **EPILOGUE/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Based on how I showcase my thesis statement, people will ask me what I’ll learn. Regardless of whether it’s singles or doubles, there’s always something I’ll discover. It doesn’t matter whether I learn easy things the hard way or hard things the easy way. Serena’s legacy proved to the world that accomplishing rare feats is easier said than done and she’s always the one to beat. Not only that, when it came to dominating the sport as an elite athlete, Serena, Sharapova, and Barty are the only women who can handle that responsibility properly. The biggest letdown I’ve witnessed with the women’s singles Grand Slam champions is lots of confidence and very little ability. But Serena, Barty and Sharapova are complete opposites. They always focus on improving their game, staying healthy to avoid injuries, and being careful not to look too far ahead of the next tournament[s] or season.

In women’s doubles, when Dellacqua/Shvedova reached the 2015 French Open final without dropping a set and Mattek-Sands/Safarova won the 2016 Miami Open title without dropping a set, both these teams inflicted the ongoing drought. What this means is that since those two tournaments, no other women’s doubles teams have been able to accomplish the feat. I constantly wonder why that has been the case and I can never get the answer to that million-dollar question. I always believed that it was only common in singles. But now, I realized that it was common in doubles. I think both teams took a page out of Serena’s legacy with her 2011 US Open runner-up result on the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 and how she was able to win the Brisbane International two years in a row without dropping a set both times in 2013 and 2014. I believe that she passed on the confidence to these teams that they can accomplish anything anywhere.

I know that this is a ton of information for my readers to sponge in all at once. But as always, feel free to read however much you can! There’s absolutely no rush at all to do it in one sitting! I promise y’all one thing – no matter what, I’ll be keeping an eye out on the tournaments every single year for y’all as best as I can! I also created a second portion in Excel, where I collected data [number of tournaments played, number of titles won, wins, losses, and winning percentile range] for several of my favorite men’s and women’s singles Grand Slams champions and organized them in two separate spreadsheets to find out where everyone is ranked.

I want to give a big thanks to my family and friends for being by my side and supporting me through my journey of pursuing my thesis statement in my Word document. Stay tuned for updates, guys! I’ll post more information as we get more news each season!