# **DEFINING CONSISTENCY – FROM DAILY ROUTINES TO GREATNESS**

When the word, “consistency”, comes to mind, what occurs to me? Do I think of myself doing Barre Blast, Zumba, HIGH, & Strictly Strength six out of the seven days a week at the gym? Could it be that I wipe the floor clean and get caught up with my queue at work on Fridays to start fresh on Mondays? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, consistency is the quality of staying the same, even at contrasting times. The definition is a smooth fit in the sport of tennis.

Tennis is a sport between two individual singles players. It’s 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 white boundary lines. The game is played on different surfaces, such as carpet, clay, grass, or hard, 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 six games each, a tiebreaker is played to determine the winner of that set. The tiebreak is the first player to reach seven points with an edge of at least two points.

My thesis statement highlights 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 and men’s singles. 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 will either analyze certain matches from specific rounds, or I’ll sum up the main heading with all my subheadings.

The Grand Slam tournaments are four important yearly events. The women play best of three sets, while the men play best of five sets. The Grand Slams last two weeks and each Grand Slam is on a different surface. Outside of the Grand Slams are the ATP [Association of Tennis Professionals] and WTA [Women’s Tennis Association] tours. The ATP is for the men, while the WTA is for the women. 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 and men’s singles matches. First, I added headings with the player’s 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’s game revolves around her serve and 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 on second serves, to minimize double faults. She hits her groundstrokes to create dependable, heavy angles to hit winners from any position. She can hit her forehand with heavy topspin, both crosscourt and down-the-line. She can hit her two-handed backhand flat with speed and depth. She is a skilled net player and can frequently finish points at the net, either with clever touch, forceful drive volleys, or calm, powerful, reliable overhead smashes. Her return game lets her neutralize powerful first serves and attack weak second serves. She is an excellent defender because she can counterpunch against her opponents until she finds the 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 all four surfaces [carpet, clay, grass, and hard] with various partners, all without dropping a set:

**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) Win 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) Win 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) Win 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

**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 (CANADA) 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

**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) 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 kicked off in 1881 on grass until 1974. From 1975 until 1977, the surface switched to clay. Since 1978, the tournament has taken place on acrylic hardcourts at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, NY.

Wozniacki is a defensive baseliner with a counterpunching playing style. She can cover the court with speed to turn defense into offense. She can use her backhand to oppose her opponents’ shots and redirect the ball. While her game is based on defense, she can mix in offensive shots and flatten them out to take control of the points. The first set featured breaks in the fourth, sixth, seventh, and eighth games. Then, Serena broke in the third, ninth, and 10th games of the second set. Even though Serena came up short to Stosur in the title match, this was her best Grand Slam run. It was also a special moment for Team USA, as it marked the 10-anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that took place in NYC. “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 so much to me to come out here as an American and be in the final on a special day for us here in 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) 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 Liski (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 Victória Azárenka (BELARUS) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Group Stage Na Li (CHINA) Win 7-6[2] 6-3
3. Group Stage 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. Azárenka is a baseline player. She can move her opponents around until she finds an opportunity with a winner. She can blend offense and defense with her movement, court coverage, and footwork. The pace and bounce on a hard-court surface suit her playing style. Serena received serve in this match. Serena earned the lone break of the first set 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. Then, Serena broke in the 11th game and fruitfully served out the match in the 12th game. She became the only player to win the Brisbane International without dropping a set back-to-back two years in a row. She maintained a perfect lucky streak of 16 consecutive sets won and zero lost. Even though she chose not to participate in the tournament anymore after her title wins in 2013 and 2014, this was the best choice she made in her career. From the 2015 edition onwards, it was easy to believe that the rest of the players would play with more freedom without Serena in their section of the draw. But in my opinion though, there were neither negatives nor positives, because matching Serena’s rare feat was easier said than done. No matter how hard they tried, it just wasn’t enough.

**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 takes place 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 first took place 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, the tournament took place on grass courts. Since then, the surface switched to hard courts.

When two tennis players reach the semifinals without dropping a set, it can be tricky to predict who will come out on top in their respective matches, because both players are in brilliant form. It’s not clear whether they can execute their game plan at that same level. So, maintaining that focus can be challenging. On umpteen occasions, both the champion and runner-up can reach a final without dropping a set. But I always found it difficult to decide on who I wanted to analyze in that tournament. So, as an easy win-win situation for both me and my readers, I omitted 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 compared 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 to reach difficult shots. Vandeweghe has an aggressive playing style. Her serve has speed and placement, which lets her dictate the rallies from the first shot. The pace and depth on her groundstrokes let her control points. 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 broke in the third and fifth games of the second set and 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. Serena received serve in this match. Serena broke in the third and fifth games of the first and second sets. Then, she broke in the seventh game again in the second set to seal the match.

# **MARIA SHARAPOVA (RUSSIA)**

Sharapova has a unique playing style. 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 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

# **ASHLEIGH BARTY (AUSTRALIA)**

Barty has an all-court game with a crafty playing style. She is proficient in playing both offense and defense. She is skilled at adapting her style, based on her opponents and match conditions. Her game lets her feel comfortable playing back at the baseline to come up to the net. Her ability to transition effortlessly between different playing styles makes her a well-rounded athlete. She can use her backhand as a slice to change the pace. Her mental toughness and composure on court helps her stay calm under pressure to make smart decisions 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 us 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

**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]

# **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 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**

1. Round of 32 Simone Bolelli (ITALY) Win 7-6[2] 7-6[2]
2. Round of 16 Andreas Seppi (ITALY) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Ernests Gulbis (LATVIA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Semifinal Rafael Nadal (SPAIN) Win 6-1 7-5
5. 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) Loss 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]

**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. Group Stage Sacsha Zverev (GERMANY) Win 6-4 6-1
2. Group Stage Marin Čilić (CROATIA) Win 7-6[7] 6-2
3. Group Stage 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. Round of 16 Pablo Andújar (SPAIN) Win 6-0 6-3
2. Quarterfinal Vasek Pospisil (CANADA) Win 7-6[5[ 6-3
3. Semifinal Roman Safiullin (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 7-6[3]
4. Final 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]

**2025 MIAMI OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Rinky Hijikata (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-0 7-6[1]
2. Round of 32 Camilo Ugo Carabelli (ARGENTINA) Win 6-1 7-6[1]
3. Round of 16 Lorenzo Musetti (ITALY) Win 6-2 6-2
4. Quarterfinal Sebastian Korda (USA) Win 6-3 7-6[4]
5. Semifinal Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-2 6-3
6. Final Jakub Menšík (CZECH REPUBLIC) Loss 7-6[4] 7-6[4]

The Miami Open is held in FL. It is played on outdoor hardcourts in late March and early April. The tournament was held at the Tennis Center at Crandon Park in Key Biscayne, from 1987 until 2018 with the top 96 men and women tennis players in the world. It moved to Miami Gardens in 2019. Following the Indian Wells Open, it is the second event of the "Sunshine Double" — a series of two elite, consecutive hard-court tournaments in the United States in early spring. The Indian Wells Open held in Indian Wells, CA. It is played on outdoor hardcourts at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in March. Both tournaments are the best-attended tennis tournaments outside of the four Grand Slams. They are often called the fifth and sixth Grand Slams.

The 2025 Miami Open was one tournament I will always truly remember forever. Djokovic and Murray were born just a week apart in May 1987 and grew up competing in the same generation. Their rivalry flourished in the early 2010s, when both reached the summit of the sport. They had incredible defense, baseline steadiness, and mental toughness, in their lengthy, physical, tactical. Despite this rivalry, Djokovic and Murray always shared deep respect and friendship off the court. They trained together as juniors, rose through the rankings side by side, and supported each other through injuries and comebacks. In the 2025 Miami Open, their coaching partnership sparked instant headlines. They both showed the world that respect lasts longer than rivalry and the fiercest competitors can stand together in pursuit of greatness.

Menšík’s game is built around his serve. His quick, well-placed first serve helps him win easy points. He likes to take control of the rallies with his flat groundstrokes. But his game can sometimes get him into trouble. His movement can be tested when opponents use drop shots or pull him far out wide, and he isn’t fully comfortable finishing points at the net. His second serve can also be a bit of a weakness, especially against aggressive returners who look to attack it immediately. Since he likes to hit powerful winners, sometimes he takes risks at the wrong moments, which can lead to mistakes when matches get tight. Even though Menšík beat Djokovic in the title match in two tiebreakers, Djokovic was the much better player. Menšík’s first round and semifinal opponents clearly exposed the flaws in his game to push him to three sets. But Djokovic was able to dominate rallies, return serve sharply, and keep pressure on opponents point after point.

# **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**

1. Round of 32 Sjeng Schalken (NETHERLANDS) Win 7-6[2] 6-4
2. Round of 16 Mario Ančić (CROATIA) Win 7-6[0] 7-6[6]
3. Quarterfinal Grégory Carraz (FRANCE) Win 2-1 RETIRED
4. Semifinal Jiří Novák (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-1 6-3
5. Final Dominik Hrbatý (SLOVAKIA) Loss 4-6 6-2 7-5

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

1. Round of 32 Victor Hănescu (ROMANIA) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Round of 16 Arnaud Di Pasquale (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Franco Squillari (ARGENTINA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Semifinal Félix Mantilla (SPAIN) Win 7-5 6-1
5. 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 6-0 6-2
2. Round of 16 Dominik Hrbatý (SLOVAKIA) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Agustín Calleri (ARGENTINA) Win 6-2 3-0 RETIRED
4. Semifinal Radek Štěpánek (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 7-5 6-2
5. Final Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPAIN) Win 6-1 7-6[4] 6-3

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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 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

**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 played the cleanest tennis to secure all 18 sets in six matches. My favorite match was his semifinal win against Tsitsipas. But one unique key I highlighted here was that I combined Tsitsipas’s and Federer’s playing styles together. Federer is an all-court player. He has efficient movement and footwork, which lets him hit inside forehands. He uses a one-handed backhand to deliver passing shots. Despite his strengths, his backhand is his biggest weakness, because it causes him to go big on his shots too quickly. His two-handed backhand opponents can take advantage of poor break point conversions. Tsitsipas also has an all-court playing style with his one-handed backhand. his second serve lacks pace against strong two-handed backhand returners. 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 close in proximity. The lone break of the match came in the 12th game of the third set. But Tsitsipas completely came unglued against Nadal in the semifinals. Nadal broke in the third and seventh games of the first set, the ninth game of the second set and whitewashed Tsitsipas with breaks in the first, third, and fifth games of the third set. Based on his win against Federer, everyone predicted that Tsitsipas would push Nadal to five sets. But umpteen fans said that Tsitsipas’s game matched up better with Federer than Nadal. I knew that if everyone said the same thing about Tsitsipas, there had to be some truth. So as a result, I knew that this was the best time for me to collect Tsitsipas’s stats from both these matches to uncover the truth.

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

**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

# **CARLOS ALCARAZ (SPAIN)**

# Alcaraz has an all-court playing style. He is known for his exceptional athleticism and speed. He uses his groundstrokes to dictate the points. He can use his forehand to attack his opponents on defense. He is a maestro of the drop shot, because he can change the sequence of points. His quick feet and agility allow him to effectively cover the court to reach tricky shots. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**2023 INDIAN WELLS MASTERS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 64 Thanasi Kokkinakis (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-3
2. Round of 32 Tallon Griekspoor (NETHERLANDS) Win 7-6[4] 6-3
3. Round of 16 Jack Draper (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 2-0 RETIRED
4. Quarterfinal Félix Auger-Aliassime (CANADA) Win 6-4 6-4
5. Semifinal Jannik Sinner (ITALY) Win 7-6[4] 6-3
6. Final Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-2

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

1. Round of 32 Nuno Borges (PORTUGAL) Win 6-3 6-1
2. Round of 16 Roberto Bautista Agut (SPAIN) Win 6-3 7-5
3. Quarterfinal Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (SPAIN) Win 7-6[5] 6-4
4. Semifinal Dan Evans (GREAT BRITAIN) Win 6-2 6-2
5. Final Stefanos Tsitsipas (GREECE) Win 6-3 6-4

**2024 CHINA OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Gio Mpetshi Perricard (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-4
2. Round of 16 Tallon Griekspoor (NETHERLANDS) Win 6-1 6-2
3. Quarterfinal Karen Khachanov (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-2
4. Semifinal Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 6-3
5. Final Jannik Sinner (ITALY) Win 6-7[6] 6-4 7-6[3]

**2025 BARCELONA OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 32 Ethan Quinn (USA) Win 6-2 7-6(6)
2. Round of 16 Laslo Đere (SERBIA) Win 6-2 6-4
3. Quarterfinal Alex De Minaur (AUSTRALIA) Win 7-5 6-3
4. Semifinal Arthur Fils (FRANCE) Win 6-2 6-4
5. Final Holger Rune (DENMARK) Loss 7-6[6] 6-2

# **JANNIK SINNER (ITALY)**

Sinner is a baseline player with intelligent point-building. He can use his groundstrokes to control the rallies. His movement lets him slide and reach balls effectively to turn defense into attack. He has a smooth, fluid motion, which allows him to quickly adjust to different positions. His serve has both power and precision, which lets him set up his points. This helped him reach multiple finals without dropping a set:

**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 (ITALY) Win 7-5 6-2
3. Final Maxime Cressy (USA) Win 7-6[3] 6-3

**2023 VIENNA OPEN [CHAMPION] 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. Semifinal Andrey Rublev (RUSSIA) Win 7-5 7-6[5]
5. Final Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 7-6[7] 4-6 6-3

**2024 ATP FINALS [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Group Stage Alex De Minaur (AUSTRALIA) Win 6-3 6-4
2. Group Stage Taylor Fritz (USA) Win 6-4 6-4
3. Group Stage Daniil Medvedev (RUSSIA) Win 6-3 6-4
4. Semifinal Casper Ruud (NORWAY) Win 6-1 6-2
5. Final Taylor Fritz (USA) Win 6-4 6-4

**2025 FRENCH OPEN [RUNNER-UP] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 128 Arthur Rinderknech (FRANCE) Win 6-4 6-3 7-5
2. Round of 64 Richard Gasquet (FRANCE) Win 6-3 6-0 6-4
3. Round of 32 Jiří Lehečka (CZECH REPUBLIC) Win 6-0 6-1 6-2
4. Round of 16 Andrey Rublev (RUSSIA) Win 6-1 6-3 6-4
5. Quarterfinal Alexander Bublik (KAZAKHSTAN) Win 6-1 7-5 6-0
6. Semifinal Novak Djokovic (SERBIA) Win 6-4 7-5 7-6[3]
7. Final Carlos Alcaraz (SPAIN) Loss 6-4 7-6[4] 4-6 6-7[3] 6-7[2-10]

# **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 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

**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

# **EPILOGUE – THE LEGACY OF SOLID DETERMINATION**

In the sport of tennis, momentum always evolves. But reaching a final without dropping a set states persistent focus and a firm mindset. These players didn’t just win their matches; they controlled them from start to finish. Their achievements remind us that true greatness is about the willpower that expresses their journey.

Serena’s career has an exceptional balance of resilience and determination. The way she reached the 2011 US Open final without dropping a set on the ten-year anniversary of 9/11 was emotional and historical. Even when she faced off against the best current top 10 players in the world, who were ranked higher than her, she handled the pressure beautifully. Her athleticism and mental toughness were the solutions. Her opponents were distracted or overwhelmed by the occasion. But she did an excellent job to maintain her composure to not let their intensity affect her game.

She preserved accomplishments in 2013 and 2014 when she became the only player to win the Brisbane International without dropping a set two years in a row. This notable feat didn’t just stage her skill. It also exhibited her dominance. Given how difficult it is to get through matches at the beginning of a new season, especially before the first Grand Slam of the year, it is much easier said than done. Many current top 10 players face early round struggles to fight through tough matches. But Serena’s flawless performance in Brisbane those two years cemented her head and shoulders above the rest of the field.

Her 2016 season was a testament to how she took home the 2017 Australian Open crown without dropping a set. When she kicked off her 2016 season, she was a 21-time Grand Slam champion, world number one, top seed, and defending champion at the first three Grand Slams. Serena faced Kerber in two Grand Slam finals at the Australian Open and Wimbledon. Even though Serena lost to Kerber in the Australian Open final, she turned the match around at Wimbledon and successfully avenged her loss to Kerber to take home her 22nd Grand Slam title to tie Steffi Graf (GERMANY). “I thought I learned a valuable lesson, which I thought I learned at 18, when I tied Chrissie Evert (USA) and Martina Navratilova (USA). But now I know I can’t look that far ahead, and I have to do the best I can.” Compared to the 2016 Australian Open, Serena and Kerber both came into the 2017 Australian Open with separate mindsets. In 2016, Serena was initially under pressure at the first three Grand Slams as the world number one, top seed, and defending champion and stuck on 21 Grand Slam titles. But after she secured her 22nd Grand Slam crown at Wimbledon, she played more relaxed tennis, moving forward. Once Kerber won her second Grand Slam and the year-end world number one ranking at the 2016 US Open though, she now had to deal with the same pressure that Serena faced. Kerber came into the 2017 Australian Open as the world number one, top seed, and defending champion. But Serena came into the tournament with more confidence and less pressure, because she tied Graf’s record and was only defending runner-up points as the second seed. On the other hand, Kerber couldn’t handle the expectations and play with the same 2016 freedom. As a result, her title defense ended in the fourth-round and Serena took home the title with 14 sets secured in seven matches to get back at the top spot.

Apart from the 2011 US Open semifinals, 2014 Brisbane International final, & 2017 Australian Open final, what amazed me in Serena’s career was that she went undefeated on multiple surfaces [carpet, clay, and grass] and never had more than 12 losses in her singles career. Being able to equally balance talent, determination, and mental strength over the years is not as easy as it sounds. Tennis is the sport where even the smallest mistakes can cost a big match. But Serena has the capability to perform at a high level while avoiding slumps over a long period of time.

Nadal’s performance at the 2019 Australian Open was a clear showcase of his dominance. The way he secured his 16th, 17th, and 18th consecutive sets in his semifinal win against Tsitsipas cemented his place among the game’s greats. When I compared the match status for Nadal’s semifinal win to Tsitsipas’s fourth-round win against Federer, I wanted to know why Tsitsipas was incredible against Federer, but terrible & predictable against Nadal. Tsitsipas was able to control the match with his groundstrokes against Federer, because the matchup was between two one-handed backhand all-court players. But when Tsitsipas faced Nadal, the match took a different turn. Nadal hits with a lot of topspin on his forehand, which often aims for Tsitsipas’ backhand wing. Tsitsipas struggled to take the ball early and couldn’t control it, which led to a high number of unforced errors.

# **BEYOND THE SPOTLIGHT – UNIQUE RUNS FROM ADMIRED NAMES**

Serena and Nadal set the standard for dominance for these four tournaments I wrote about. But there have been other players, who sculpted their own moments of perfection. Even though these runs may not have made worldwide headlines, they shared the same qualities to define greatness with focus, fitness, and mental strength. Their journeys prove that excellence isn’t just for superstars only, their fate is also written by those who can capture their moment and never let it go.

# **KIKI BERTENS (NETHERLANDS)**

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

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

The Madrid Open is held annually in Madrid, Spain. It is played on outdoor clay courts at the Caja Mágica. The tournament typically takes place in late April to early May and serves as a key lead-up event to the French Open. It was first established in 2002 for men as an indoor hard-court event until 2008. From 2009 onwards, it became a tournament for the women as well.

Bertens has a versatile baseline-oriented playing style. She can use her forehand with heavy topspin, depth, and can dictate the rallies. She can use her backhand to redirect pace. She excels at constructing points patiently by using angles. She can defuse big hitters and turn defense into counterpunching opportunities. This helped became the only woman to win the Madrid Open title without dropping a set. I chose to compare Bertens’s semifinal win against Stephens and Halep’s semifinal win against Bencic. Then, I also analyzed the title match between Bertens and Halep.

Stephens has a counterpunching playing style with smooth athleticism, exceptional court coverage, and calm shot selection. She can absorb pace and turn defense into attack. She can change direction on the run with her forehand. She can use her backhand cross-court to set up the points in the rallies. In the first set, Bertens broke in the first and fifth games. In the second set, Stephens broke in the sixth game, only for Bertens to break back in the seventh game. Stephens had triple set point on Berten’s serve in the 10th game. But Bertens won five straight points, broke in the 11th game, and successfully served out the match in the 12th game.

Halep is an aggressive counterpuncher**.** She can retrieve any shot to transition from defense to offense. She uses her backhand to open the court to create sharp angles. She likes to redirect pace and use her opponent's power against them. She can absorb hard shots and respond with depth and precision. But her weaknesses are that she doesn’t hit many aces or service winners, which makes it more difficult for her to hold serve and she lacks power. Meanwhile, Bencic has a versatile playing style to blend dominance with aggression. She can hold her own in long rallies when she uses her groundstrokes effectively. She can use her groundstrokes to dictate rallies and control the match. Like Bertens, Halep also reached the semifinals without dropping a set. But unlike Bertens, who swept her ninth and 10th consecutive sets, Halep got pushed to a third set. In the first set, Halep broke in the first, fifth, and seventh games, while Bencic broke once in the fourth game. In the second set, Halep broke in the first game. But Bencic broke in the second and fourth games and took the second-set tiebreak. Then, Halep broke in the second, fourth, and sixth games in the third set.

When Bertens and Halep both reached the semifinals without dropping a set, it reminded me a lot of how Serena and Venus reached the semifinals without dropping a set at the 2017 Australian Open before Serena effectively secured her 11th and 12th consecutive sets in the semifinals easily. I was curious to know history could repeat itself in the same way in a different tournament. Even though Bertens faced triple set point on her serve in the 10th game of the second set in her semifinal win against Stephens, she was able to show the ability to flip a nearly lost set into a win in a super short amount of time. Meanwhile, Halep had chances to win her semifinal match against Bencic in straight sets. But Bencic stepped up in the tiebreak and proved that her flat, fast-paced game can constantly put Halep’s movement under pressure. When Halep and Bertens faced off in the title match, Halep was the clear favorite to win the title, having been a two-time champion in 2016 and 2017. But Bertens had a clear physical advantage. Despite her struggle to physically recover after her late quarterfinal win against Kvitová, she had an earlier finish with her semifinal win against Stephens, which gave her a full day to squeeze in extra rest and recovery in as much as possible. Halep initially got off to a strong start with breaks in the fourth and sixth games. But Bertens broke in the fifth, seventh, and ninth games and successfully served out the first set in the 10th game. This was followed by three more breaks in the first, fourth, and fifth games of the second set.

# **SHUAI ZHANG (CHINA)**

Zhang is a baseline player. She has a unique playing style with her powerful groundstrokes, especially since she can play two-handed on her forehand. Along with this unique forehand, her backhand is often considered her strongest wing. She likes to hit the ball flat early. This will help her redirect her shots with pace and angles from the baseline. This helped her reach the biggest indoor hard-court final of her singles career 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. I chose to compare Zhang’s semifinal win against Garcia to the second semifinal between Yastremska and Cîrstea. Then, I also analyzed the title match between Zhang and Yastremska.

Garcia is an all-court player, who can combine power and versatility. She has a strong baseline game with her groundstrokes. Her forehand can dictate rallies. She can use her serve to set up points. In the first set, Zhang broke in the third and seventh games. In the second set, Zhang broke in the first and 11th games, while Garcia broke in the sixth game.

Yastremska is an aggressive baseline player. She can strike the ball with heavy topspin and depth, to dictate rallies from the baseline. She likes to take control of points. Besides her solid movement, she also has hard-hitting positioning. She uses her first serve to set points up and likes to follow it up with her forehand. She likes to take control of points and doesn’t shy away from hitting the ball early. She frequently plays on the front foot to prevent opponents from dictating rallies. Besides solid movement, her positioning lets her be effective and quick enough to hit hard from all areas of the court. The 2022 Lyon Open kicked off when Russia invaded Ukraine as the war broke out. Yastremska was living with her family in Odesa before she and her younger sister successfully escaped to settle down in Lyon. When Yastremska kicked off her campaign, she saved two match points in her opener before sealing the second and third sets in two tiebreaks. After she scored two more straight set wins in the Round of 16 and quarterfinals, a stern test came in the semifinals. When Zhang reached the final without dropping a set, she awaited the winner of the second semifinal between Yastremska and Cîrstea. Before Zhang got the better of Garcia, Cîrstea also reached the semifinals without dropping a set. Like Yastremska, Cîrstea is also a baseline player. Her forehand is her strongest wing. When she’s timing the ball well, she can hit deep, penetrating shots to rush her opponents. When she stands inside the baseline, she can attack immediately. Her backhand is frequently used to form points or redirect pace. She is not afraid to take risks to step in on returns and shorten points. In the first set, Cîrstea broke in the fourth game. Then, Yastremska broke in the seventh game and took the first set in a tiebreak. Once Cîrstea dropped the first set, I realized regardless of whether Yastremska won this semifinal match in two or three sets or Cîrstea came back to win in three sets, I knew that whoever made it through to the title match would have to deal with a serious case of the fatigue factor and Zhang would have the physical advantage in the final. In the second set, Yastremska broke in the second game to lead by a set and a break. But Cîrstea broke in the fifth and ninth games and successfully served out the second set in the 10th game. In the third set, both players traded breaks in the second, third, fourth, ninth, and 10th games.

The final between Zhang and Yastremska featured two of the hardest hitters in the game. Yastremska earned the lone break of the first set in the sixth game and broke in the first game of the second set. But Zhang broke in the second and fourth games and successfully served out the second set in the ninth game to send the match to a decider. The third set featured nonstop service breaks. Yastremska went up a break twice after the second and sixth games. But Zhang canceled out those leads with three breaks in the third, seventh, and ninth games and efficiently served out the match in the 10th game.

**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

After her singles success in Lyon, Zhang accomplished this feat again twice in doubles on two different surfaces [clay and grass] with two diverse partners. Now, I will tell my readers – it is extremely rare that a tennis player can accomplish a feat like this in the same season. But seeing Zhang’s success at these three tournaments reminded me a lot of how Serena and Nadal built their legacies at the four tournaments I wrote about. I was riveted, because I had never seen anything like this before in my life in the entire saga of this sport. Even though Zhang’s feat wasn’t in a Grand Slam singles event, seeing her accomplish this across three different tournaments in two formats is a unique, powerful story of constant excellence.

# **TOMMY PAUL (USA)**

Paul is born left-handed but plays right-handed. His game is illustrated with a blend of power, elegance, and adaptability. His forehand is his most forceful weapon, because it lets him dictate rallies from the baseline with topspin and depth. He can use his forehand to open the court and create opportunities to finish points forcefully. He frequently uses his two-handed cross-court backhands to control baseline exchanges and is skilled at transitioning from defense to offense with this wing. His quick footwork and agility let him open the court efficiently to retrieve challenging shots and extend rallies. This helped him win the biggest indoor hard-court title of his career without dropping a set:

**2024 STOCKHOLM OPEN [CHAMPION] RESULT SCORE**

1. Round of 16 Laslo Đere (SERBIA) (SERBIA) Win 6-2 7-6[2]
2. Quarterfinal Miomir Kecmanović (SERBIA) Win 7-6[9] 6-2
3. Semifinal Stan Wawrinka (SWITZERLAND) Win 6-3 6-2
4. Final Grigor Dimitrov (BULGARIA) Win 6-4 6-3

The Stockholm Open, is a famed indoor tournament held annually in Stockholm, Sweden. It was first played in 1969. Until 1979, the tournament was played on hard courts. In 1980, then again from 1989 to 1994, the surface switched to carpet before going back to hard. I chose to write about Paul in a unique way for Stockholm, because his accomplishment reminded me a lot of Zhang when she reached the 2022 Lyon Open final without dropping a set. But once I dive deeper into analyzing his semifinal win against Wawrinka, I’ll dive in deeper to explain the significance to my readers.

Wawrinka’s playing style is built around his powerful baseline game. He likes to dominate the rallies with his one-handed backhand and aggressive forehand. He can dictate the rallies with heavy topspin and explosive shot-making. He can use his forehand to fully run around his backhand. But his one-handed backhand is his biggest weakness. This shot is helplessto high balls or shots, especially when he is under pressure. Since he tends to take time to set up this shot, his two-handed backhand opponents can easily target it with pace or spin to throw off his rhythm. In the first set, Paul earned the lone break in the sixth game. Then, this was followed by two more breaks in the first and seventh games of the second set. Overall, I felt that Wawrinka didn’t do anything wrong in the first set and he was brave enough to keep the deficit to a single break, instead of being broken twice back-to-back in the sixth and eighth games. But Paul’s ability to grip pace and redirect the ball exposed Wawrinka’s occasional breaks in fluidity.

I also chose to write about the second semifinal between Dimitrov and Griekspoor. This tournament was a little bit different, because both Dimitrov and Griekspoor reached the semifinals without dropping a set. Dimitrov has an all-court, fluid, playing style. He can play from all areas of the court. He keeps a variety of shots on his groundstrokes, exceptional touch at the net, and effective drop shots. He is effective on his forehand, because he can hit this shot inside-out. But his one-handed backhand is his biggest weakness, because his two-handed backhand opponents can easily hit through that shot with heavy topspin, which causes him to return with weak slices. Like Dimitrov, Griekspoor also has the same playing style. His serve is his biggest weapon, because he can create power on it while it’s flat. He likes to control the rallies from the baseline with his groundstorkes to put his opponents on defense. In the first set, Griekspoor broke twice in the fifth and seventh games. Had Griekspoor won the match in straight sets, I wouldn’t have been able to write about Paul in this tournament at all. Both players traded breaks in the second and seventh games of the second set. Then, Dimitrov finally broke through in the 12th game to send the match into a third, final set. Eventually, I realized whoever won the match would have to deal with the fatigue factor in the final against Paul. Dimitrov broke in the 10th game. But Paul eventually wore out the Bulgarian to take home the biggest title of his career.

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