



2019 US Open Championships

AUGUST 19 - SEPTEMBER 8 · NEW YORK CITY







US OPEN

The world of Rolex is filled with stories of perpetual excellence. Under the bright lights of Flushing Meadows, the US Open has produced some of the most electrifying performances in tennis history. Passionate fans have witnessed the record-breaking victories of yesterday that inspire tomorrow's greatest triumphs. At the final Grand Slam® event of the tennis season, the stage is always set for another epic finale. This is a story of perpetual excellence, the story of Rolex.

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Welcome to the US Open











On behalf of the United States Tennis Association, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center and the 2019 US Open.

With more than 800,000 fans passing through the turnstiles here during the three weeks of the event last year (including Fan Week), the US Open is this country's largest—and most spectacular—tennis event, with fans from all corners of the globe flocking to the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center to watch the greatest players in our sport compete for tennis's toughest title. These grounds, which have twice hosted a World's



Fair, now play host to the world, as the US Open provides a grand stage for tennis's top stars to showcase their talents. At this time of year, Flushing Meadows is the center of the sporting universe, and the spotlight that shines upon this place brilliantly illuminates these world-class athletes—and the wonderful sport of tennis—for the whole world to see and enjoy.

It's been a thrilling Grand Slam season so far, with a mix of rising stars and famous names creating a host of riveting headlines. All that excitement figures to ramp up here, as the best in the game look to make the most of the season's final Slam. With so much on the line—and so much talent between the lines—this year's US Open promises to deliver large doses of daily drama, providing fans with the sort of memories that last a lifetime.

All of us at the USTA are committed to making your US Open experience enjoyable and memorable, and that's why each year we strive to improve the fan experience. With the completion last year of our five-year transformation of the NTC, the US Open now has a world-class, state-of-the-art facility to call home, altogether fitting for the game's Grandest Slam.

It's important for you to know that your support of the US Open helps us to bring tennis to local communities like yours all across the U.S., as the proceeds from this event go directly toward funding a wide variety of USTA programming, designed to keep the game's grass roots growing strong. Thanks to the success of the US Open, the USTA is able to provide tennis programs that put more people on more courts in more places. We've been able to reach into more communities and enhance more lives through tennis. That's been great for our sport—and great for the people who make tennis a part of their lives. I sincerely hope that you're one of them.

So, on behalf of all the dedicated volunteers and staff of the USTA, I thank you for your support of the US Open and, through it, your support of the growth of tennis in the U.S.

Enjoy the 2019 US Open!

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Galbraith USTA Chairman and President





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CONTENTS

27 FIRST SERVE

Make the most of your visit to the 2019 US Open with this fan-friendly guide to the tournament.

BY RICK RENNERT

68 ON THEIR MARKS

The race for tennis supremacy comes to the US Open, though it's far from the home stretch.

BY PETER BODO

92 A NEW DAY

A wide open field for the US Open—and women's tennis in general—means it's anbody's game, which is just perfect!

BY STEPHEN TIGNOR

110 THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

The first US Open in 1968 was a landmark breakthrough for tennis in America. But it was the succeeding championships —50 years ago—that turned the nation's premier tournament into a world-class event.

BY RICK RENNERT

118 THE SERENA EXPERIENCE

With her first major singles championship 20 years ago, Serena Williams began to reshape tennis. She is still crafting, as 24 majors looms on the horizon.

BY L. JON WERTHEIM

122 MINISTER OF DEFENSE

Novak Djokovic puts a different spin on what it means to be a defending champion.

BY STEVE FLINK

126 "I'M JUST ME"

Naomi Osaka attracts followers for different reasons, but she is a champion—defending her US Open crown—because she thrives under pressure.

BY LOUISA THOMAS

Wil

130 15 LOVE

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Roger Federer winning his first US Open title. Fun facts celebrate his majesty.

COMPILED BY ASHLEY MARSHALL



From the time they were juniors, Madison Keys and Sloane Stephens have been catching attention and nurturing a bond.

BY KYLE RINGO

138 RISE AND SHINE

This year's US Open features an impressive number of young American players who are looking to continue their climb to the top of the sport.

BY WAYNE COFFEY

144 TOGETHER FOREVER ONCE MORE

Tennis's most prolific doubles team, the Bryan brothers, is back "to ring out every last drop."

BY CINDY SHMERLER

148 GETTING THE HANG OF IT

John McEnroe found his stride as a Grand Slam tournament singles champion at the 1979 US Open.

BY JOHN FEINSTEIN

152 WHEN THE ROCKET SOARED

A half century ago at the US Open, Rod Laver became the only player in history to capture the Grand Slam twice.

BY JOEL DRUCKER

156 PATHWAY TO THE PROS

For 40 years, the USTA's professional tennis circuit has been paving the way for promising players to compete at the sport's highest levels. BY RICK RENNERT

161 THE PLAYERS

A guide to the competitors at the 2019 US Open.

A trio of Australian Open and Roland Garros champions gets enshrined in Newport.

214 IF YOU BUILD IT...

The USTA National Campus at Lake Nona has turned Orlando into the tennis capital of America.

BY JAMIE LISANTI

218 REFILLING THE CUPS

New formats are rolled out to boost tennis's premier team events.

BY PAT MITSCH

220 LEARNING AND LEGACY

The USTA Foundation celebrates 50 years of the National Junior Tennis & Learning network.

BY ERIN MAHER

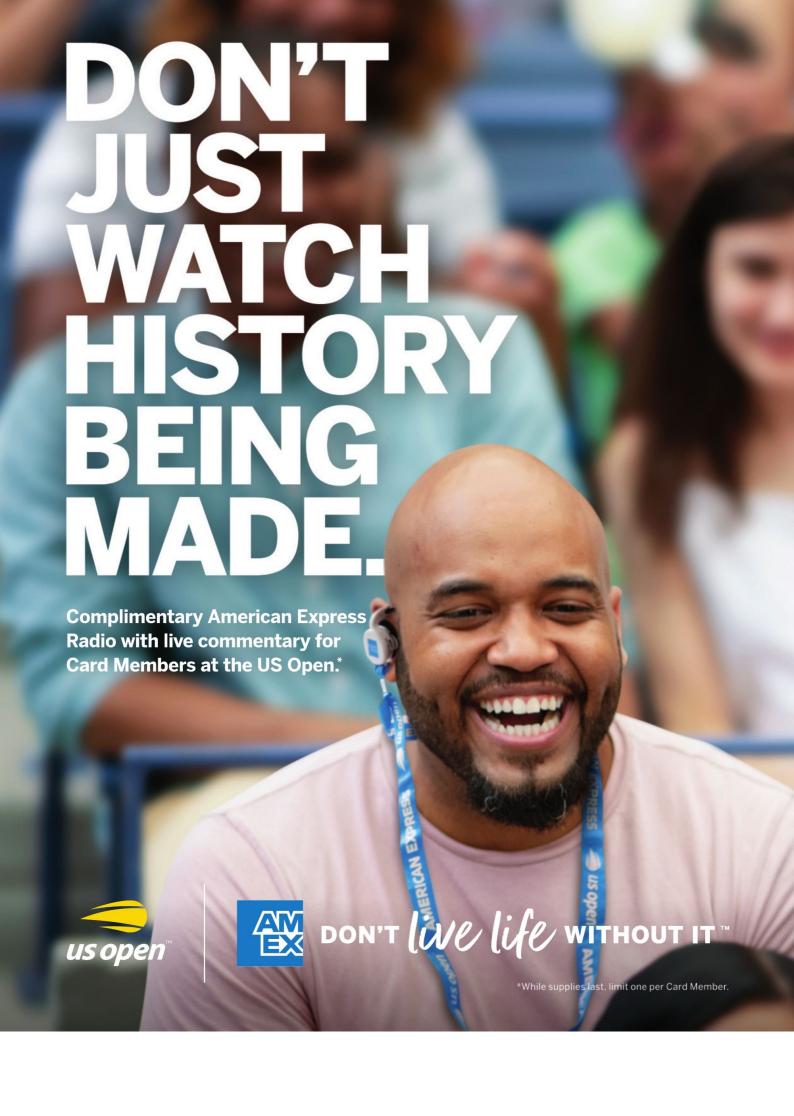
224 FIRST YEAR OF THE FUTURE

Exciting new talents are coming to the fore in men's and women's tennis.

BY MARK PRESTON

DEPARTMENTS

Grounds Map 22
Stadium Seating Charts 24
Tournament Schedule 50
Prize Money 52
Men's Rankings 89
Women's Rankings 108



CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Bodo (On Their Marks, p. 70), having written about tennis for numerous publications, presently works for ESPN.com. He is the author of several books, his most recent being *Ashe vs. Connors:* Wimbledon 1975: Tennis That Went Beyond Centre Court (Diversion).

Wayne Coffey (Rise and Shine, p. 136), an award-winning sportswriter and author, has covered the US Open for 30 years. His most recent book is *They Said it Couldn't Be Done* (Crown Archetype), which chronicles the 1969 Miracle Mets.

Joel Drucker (When the Rocket Soared, p. 150) is an historian-at-large for the International Tennis Hall of Fame and, since 1982, has written for numerous media outlets, including *Tennis* magazine, *Cigar Aficionado*, ESPN, HBO, CBS, Tennis Channel and The Huffington Post.

John Feinstein (Getting the Hang of It, p. 146), an enshrinee in the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame, is a *Washington Post* columnist who wrote the book *Hard Courts* (Villard) during the height of John McEnroe's career. His most recent book is *The Prodigy* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux).

Steve Flink (Minister of Defense, p. 120) is a columnist for Tennis.com and author of an upcoming Pete Sampras biography, scheduled for March 2020 publication. He is enshrined in both the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the USTA Eastern Tennis Hall of Fame.

Jamie Lisanti (If You Build It..., p. 214) is a special projects editor for *Sports Illustrated*, with a focus on fitness, food, fashion and lifestyle, and producer (and periodic co-host) of the tennis podcast *Beyond the Baseline*.

Rick Rennert (The Start of Something Big, p. 106; Pathway to the Pros, p. 154) is the author of *US Open: 50 Years of Championship Tennis* (Abrams).

Kyle Ringo (A Perfect Match, p. 132) is a freelance journalist based in San Antonio. He has covered business, college athletics, the NBA, NFL and Major League Baseball for numerous publications and websites.

Cindy Shmerler (Together Forever Once More, p. 142) is an award-winning journalist who has covered the US Open for more than 40 years. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*, as well as on Tennis.com, ESPN, USA Network and Tennis Channel. She also is the daytime voice of American Express Radio at the Open.

Louisa Thomas ("I'm Just Me," p. 124) is a contributing writer for NewYorker.com, having previously written for Grantland. She also is author of the acclaimed biography *Louisa: The Extraordinary Life of Mrs. Adams.*

Stephen Tignor (A New Day, p. 88) is a senior writer at *Tennis* magazine and Tennis.com, as well as author of *High Strung: Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, and the Last Days of Tennis's Golden Age* (Harper).

L. Jon Wertheim (The Serena Experience, p. 114) is executive editor at *Sports Illustrated*, a commentator for Tennis Channel and a contributing correspondent for *60 Minutes*. He has authored 10 books, and his work has been featured in the *Best American Sports Writing* anthology multiple times.



USTA

70 West Red Oak Lane White Plains, NY 10604-3602 (914) 696-7000 **USTA.com**

Director, Publishing: Rick Rennert

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Associate Publisher: Adam Scharff

Creative/Production Director: Cheryl A. Lampert

Editor: Andre Christopher

Contributing Editor: John Veneziano

Design/Production: Christina Capobianco, Susan Macdonald, Cat Paszyc

Senior Vice President, Business Development: Paul DeJoie

Vice President, Advertising Sales: Judy Brooks

Distribution Director/Vice President, Advertising Sales: Mark Appleman **Advertising Sales:** Jack Barrette, Greg Clements, Edward Dias, PSP Sports

Strategic Sales & Marketing: Kathy Bertagna

Marketing Consultant: Steven Liebman, Regal Marketing Group Inc.

IT Support: SR Hunt Consulting Cover Illustration: Sean Loose

All advertising inquiries should be directed to:

H. . ZIMMAN, Inc.

Seaport Landing, 152 The Lynnway

Lynn, Massachusetts 01902

(781) 598-9230 / Fax (781) 599-4018

E-mail: info@hozinc.com / Web site: www.hozimman.com

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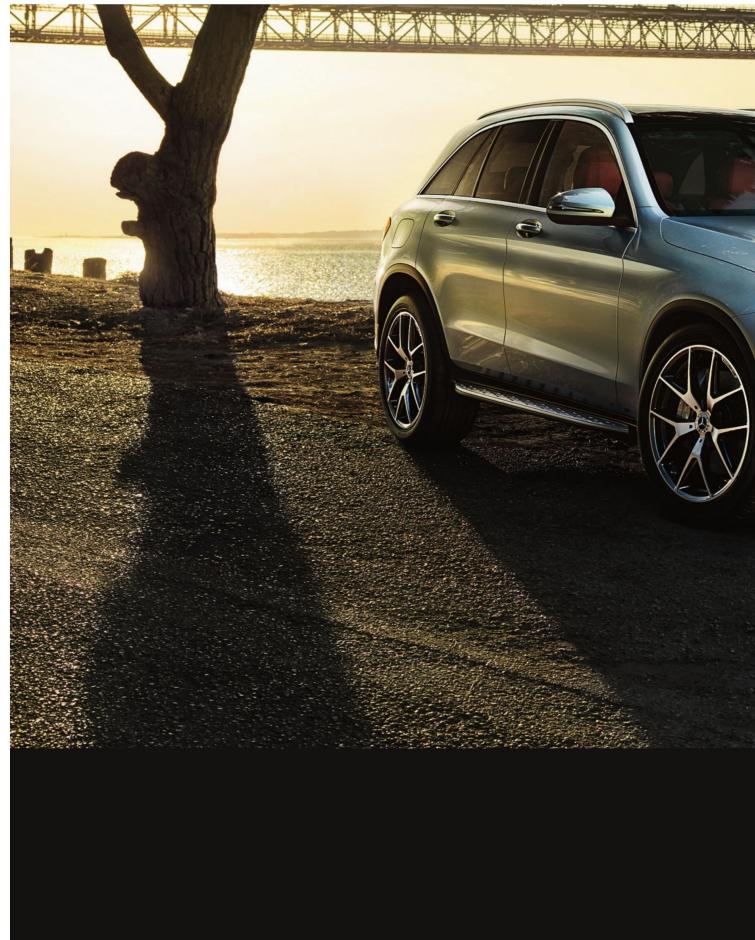
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK, NY 10007

August 26, 2019

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to join the United States Tennis Association in welcoming everyone to Flushing Meadows Corona Park for the 2019 US Open.

Sports and athletic tournaments have the power to bring our communities closer together and help break down barriers to unite fans from across the globe, and they are also vital tools for sharing the importance of perseverance, integrity and teamwork. The US Open is one of New York's most anticipated events, and it has long brought some of the best tennis players in the world together in Queens, showcasing the talents, skill and dedication of these respected athletes while hosting some of the most memorable matchups in the history of the sport. As fans from far and wide gather at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, I am proud to applaud the USTA for its continued efforts to uplift and empower the next generation of tennis players and the countless ways it has harnessed the power of this sport to make a positive impact in the lives of so many. We look forward to an exciting tournament that will be remembered for years to come and one that embodies the energy, spirit and dynamism of our great city.

On behalf of the City of New York, I offer my best wishes for a wonderful stay for those who have traveled to the five boroughs for this event, and best of luck to all of this year's competitors!

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio

Mayor



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To Promote and Develop the Growth of Tennis

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level—from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. It is a progressive and diverse not-for-profit organization whose volunteers, professional staff and financial resources support a single mission: to promote and develop the growth of tennis. It is also the largest tennis organization in the world, with 17 geographical sections and more than 635,000 members. It invests 100 percent of its proceeds in growing the game.

The USTA owns and operates the US Open, one of the highest-attended annual sporting events in the world, and launched the US Open Series, linking WTA and ATP Tour summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, the USTA owns approximately 100 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S. and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA's philanthropic entity, the USTA Foundation, provides grants and scholarships in addition to supporting tennis and education programs nationwide to benefit under-resourced youth through the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network. For more information about the USTA, go to USTA.com or follow the official accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat.















USTA

Executives





Gordon A. Smith Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director

Gordon A. Smith is the USTA's Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, and leads the USTA's effort to accomplish its mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis. Smith oversees all day-to-day operations of the USTA, including Community Tennis, Professional Tennis and Player Development.



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Stacey Allaster Chief Executive, Professional Tennis



David Brewer US Open Tournament Director



Lew Sherr Chief Revenue Officer



Martin Blackman General Manager, Player Development



Kurt Kamperman Chief Executive, USTA National Campus



Chris Widmaier Managing Director, Corporate Communications



Craig Morris Chief Executive, Community Tennis



Ed Neppl Officer



Amy Choyne Chief Marketing Officer



Paul Maya Officer



Dan Faber Executive Director, USTA Foundation

US Open Senior Team

Rachel Booth

Caley Boyd

Director, Partnership Marketing

Michael Bozzo

Director, Ticket Services

Lew Brewer

US Open Junior Tournament Director

Eric Butorac

Director, Professional Tennis Operations & Player Relations

Michael Carrasquillo

Senior Director, NTC Finance

Senior Director, Pro Tennis Strategy, Officiating & Pro Circuit

Alexis Colvin

Chief Medical Officer

Kirsten Corio

Managing Director, Ticketing & Digital Strategy

Jeanmarie Daly

Director, Media Operations & Special Events

Brian Daniels

Director, Player Medical Services

Michael Fiur

Entertainment Producer

Soeren Friemel

Jake Garner Chief Umpire

Monica Harrigan Senior Director, Ticket Operations

Joseph Healy

Jenna Higueras

Director, Partnership Marketing

Craig Isaacs

General Counsel, NTC / Senior Counsel, Pro Tennis

Chuck Jettmar

Managing Director, Capital Projects & Engineering

Nicole Kankam

Managing Director, Marketing, Pro Tennis

Sloane Kelley

Managing Director, Creative Services & Content

Patti Kleinman-Fallick

Managing Director, Broadcasting

Whitney Kraft
Director, ITC Player Operations

Tom LaDue

Director, Corporate Communications

Carlos Lakomy

enior Director, Technology & Operations

Vincent Lowndes

Treasury Director

Kevin Mahoney

Managing Director, Digital

Rich McCarthy

Senior Director, Partnership Marketing

Ed McCool

Senior Director, Finance, Pro Tennis, Marketing & Business Operations

Brendan McIntyre Senior Director, Corporate Communications

John Poppe Director, Ticket Sales Operations

Deanne Pownall

Managing Director, Partnership Marketing

Mark Preston

Senior Director, Corporate Communications

Rick Rennert

Director, Publishing

J. Wayne Richmond Managing Director, Major Events

Mike Rodriguez Director, US Open Security Megan Rose

or Director, Competitive Pathway

Mary Ryan

r Director, Merchandising

Brian Ryerson

Director, Digital Product Management

Aaron Segal

Adam Sinclair

Senior Director, NTC Facility Operations

Chris Studley

enior Director, Event Services

Tina Taps

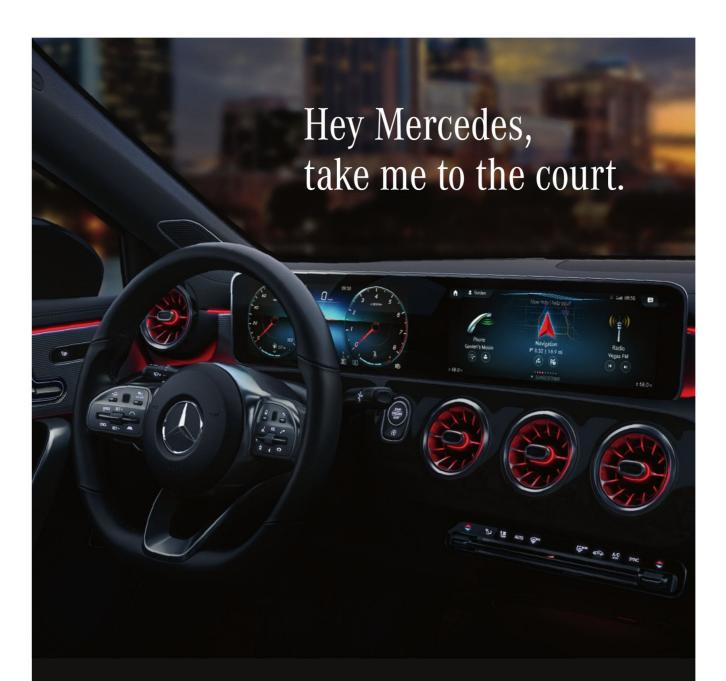
James Tressler Director, Corporate Partnerships

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USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

2019 US Open





Stadium and Field Courts



Arthur Ashe Stadium



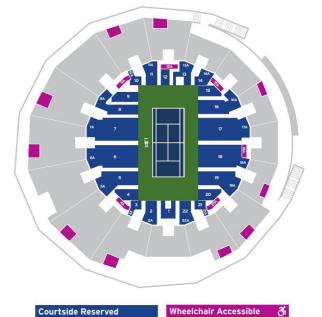
Stadium Courts	Seating Capacity
Arthur Ashe Stadium	23,771
Louis Armstrong Stadium	14,000
Grandstand	8,125
Court No. 17	2,800
Field Courts and	Seating
Practice Courts	Capacity
Court No. 4	1,066
Court No. 5	1,148
Court No. 6	1,032
Court No. 7	1,494
Court No. 8	336
Court No. 9	624
Court No. 10	1,104
Court No. 11	1,704
Court No. 12	1,704
Court No. 13	1,104
Court No. 14	502
Court No. 15	502
Court No. 16	336
	672

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Louis Armstrong Stadium



24 2019 US OPEN



Grandstand

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America's preeminent showcase for tennis, the US Open is a grand celebration of the sport and the world's best players, closing out the Grand Slam tournament calendar each year in spectacular fashion. Originating in 1881 as a four-day tournament with 26 competitors vying for the first U.S. National Championship before a hundred spectators, the US Open has grown into one of the world's highest-attended annual sporting events, featuring more than 700 men, women, boys and girls from nearly 60 nations participating in almost 900 matches. This year's US Open—beginning with Fan Week, followed by the two-week Main Draw event—also offers an engaging variety of special activities and attractions for fans of all ages to experience and enjoy on the grounds of the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Thanks to your support of tennis and the US Open, the USTA, as the sport's national governing body, is able to carry out its mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis in communities throughout the U.S.

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 27

FIRST SFRVF







US Open Fan Week

Before the main draw gets underway, the US Open lets the public experience a weeklong series of events and activities across the grounds for free.

US Open Fan Week gives fans of all ages the opportunity to experience the excitement and atmosphere of the US Open like never before. A weeklong tennis and entertainment festival that kicks off the 2019 US Open, Fan Week takes place on the grounds of the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center from Monday, August 19, through Sunday, August 25, and features events and activities that are open to the public for free.

Anchoring Fan Week is the **US Open Qualifying Tournament**, which begins on Monday and runs through Friday. It offers the fifth-largest purse for a tennis event in the U.S. and consists of 128-player men's and women's singles draws, typically including players whose world rankings are between Nos. 105 and 250. Three rounds are staged for each draw, with the 16 men and 16 women who win three singles matches earning an entry into the US Open main draw. Naomi Osaka, Sloane Stephens and Angelique Kerber—the last three US Open women's singles champions—are among today's top players who earlier in their careers competed in the qualifying tournament.

From Tuesday through Friday, Fan Week is showcasing top ATP Tour and WTA players in **Featured Practices** in the Grandstand. Players will sign autographs for fans at the conclusion of each practice.

A series of late-afternoon **Legends Matches** presented by Mercedes-Benz takes place in the Grandstand from Wednesday through Friday. Matches are slated to feature John McEnroe, Jim Courier, Andy Roddick and James Blake in men's singles and Martina Navratilova, Tracy Austin, Lindsay Davenport and Aranxta Sanchez Vicario in women's doubles,

with additional former players and tennis celebrities making appearances.

The new Fan Week Center Stage, located in the South Plaza, serves as home for many Fan Week activities from Tuesday through Friday, including a nightly Heineken Happy Hour, free Chase Sound Check evening concerts, Tennis Talks and Legends Interviews, and other entertainment events, along with autograph opportunities and ticket and merchandise giveaways.

For the first time during Fan Week, fans will be able to register to gain **Access to Arthur Ashe Stadium**, which is typically closed to the public prior to the US Open main draw. The stadium will feature top player practices and other activities during the course of the week.

Fans can also register for **US Open Fan Access Pass** for a chance to win tickets and prizes, including access to reserved seating in Grandstand for featured practices and Legends matches, as well as access to Arthur Ashe Stadium. Those who register for Fan Access Pass are also entered into drawings for the chance to win US Open tickets and other prizes.

Other major US Open Fan Week events include the **US Open Draw Ceremony** and a **US Open Pride Event** on Thursday, public access to **US Open Media Day** on Friday, the 24th annual **Arthur Ashe Kids' Day** on Saturday and a new **Net Generation Kids' Zone** presented by Emirates in Backyard Court 17.

Filled each and every day with a variety of family-friendly activities and entertainment, Fan Week is a celebration of tennis and the US Open that is not to be missed.







28 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org



Arthur Ashe Kids' Day

The all-day, family-friendly event helps cap off US Open Fan Week and leads into the US Open main draw with a star-studded lineup of top tennis and music talent.





















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30 2019 US OPEN

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The world's largest single-day, grassroots tennis and entertainment event, Arthur Ashe Kids' Day powered by Net Generation takes place on Saturday, August 24, at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Featuring an Arthur Ashe Stadium show with an all-star lineup of musical guests and top WTA and ATP Tour pros, along with free tennis activities and entertainment across the US Open grounds, the 24th annual Arthur Ashe Kids' Day shapes up to be a fun-filled outing for the entire family. The day-long event, which helps cap off US Open Fan Week and signals the start of the 2019 US Open main draw, honors the life and legacy of the legendary pioneer and tennis icon Arthur Ashe.

For the third consecutive year, Arthur Ashe Kids' Day is supporting and promoting Net Generation, the Official Youth Tennis of the USTA, which aims to inspire the next generation of tennis greats. Embracing all aspects of youth play for kids ages 5 to 18, the objective of Net Generation is to provide a kid-friendly, safe connection to the sport, while also serving as a platform to celebrate individuality and self-expression.

The ticketed stadium show for Arthur Ashe Kids' Day, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., features some of the top tennis players in the world, including defending US Open champion Novak Djokovic, three-time US Open champion Rafael Nadal, 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens and all-time doubles greats Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan, plus live performances from top musical acts, including country/hip-hop artist Blanco Brown and actress and singer Meg Donnelly, who is co-hosting the show, along with The Lion King's JD McCrary and Radio Disney's Morgan, who appears as part of the event's partnership with Radio Disney, the No. 1 family destination for music from today's biggest rising stars. Over the past 23 years, Arthur Ashe Kids' Day has been a launching ground and platform for artists such as Justin Bieber, Rihanna, Ariana Grande, Shawn Mendes, Alessia Cara, Jonas Brothers, Fifth Harmony, CNCO, Britney Spears, Flo Rida, Backstreet Boys and many more.

Leading up to the stadium show, the Arthur Ashe Kids' Day free Family Festival, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., features Net Generation tennis on 14 courts, and a wide range of interactive activities for children of all ages and skill levels, including the adidas Creators Court, Cardio Tennis Kids, Chase Challenge, Emirates Airline Beat the Pro, Holiday Inn Family Fun Court, IBM Speedzone, Mount Sinai Get Fit and Play, Move with GoNoodle, Radio Disney Dance Off and Wilson Stars Court. In addition, fans can also enjoy autograph sessions, face painting, juggling workshops, hair beading and braiding, storytelling, balloon artists and roving entertainers, as well as the AAKD Festival Stage hosted by Radio Disney featuring up-and-coming musical talent, including JAGMAC and Jenna Raine, and introducing Stefan Benz and more. Fans can also watch the pros practice, getting up close and personal with tennis's biggest stars as they prepare for the 2019 US Open on selected courts.

"As we celebrate the sport of tennis and the US Open, we are reminded as to why we honor Arthur Ashe and his legacy on this day," said Gordon Smith, USTA Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director. "Arthur Ashe Kids' Day, and the USTA's Net Generation, help fulfill Arthur's mission of promoting the sport of tennis to young people and continue Arthur's vision of instilling the values of humanitarianism, leadership and academic excellence. We pay tribute to Arthur Ashe as a champion both on and off the court and a leader for civil rights, equal rights and human rights."

Arthur Ashe Kids' Day promotes the USTA Foundation's flagship program, the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network, a nationwide group of more than 300 nonprofit youth development organizations that provide free or low-cost tennis programs, academic support and life-skills training to more than 180,000 children each year. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2019, NJTL was founded by Arthur Ashe, along with Charlie Pasarell and Sheridan Snyder, as a way to engage kids through the sport of tennis.











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Grand Theater

Ben Platt takes center stage in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Opening Night of the 2019 US Open, with Ali Stroker singing the National Anthem.



Tony, Grammy and Emmy Award—winning vocalist, actor and Atlantic Records recording artist **Ben Platt** headlines the Opening Night Ceremony in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday evening, August 26, in celebration of the start of the main draw of the 2019 US Open.

Winner of the 2017 Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical for his performance as Evan Hansen in the smash hit, *Dear Evan Hansen*, Platt has also won legions of fans with his

on-screen performances in films such as the blockbuster *Pitch Perfect* franchise. A truly multi-faceted actor, singer and all-around performer, he added to his accomplishments this year by releasing his critically acclaimed debut solo album, *Sing to Me Instead*, for which he co-wrote all of the songs. Tracks such as "Bad Habit" and "Ease My Mind" feature classic popcraft with sweeping vocals and Platt's own undeniable charm and versatility.

Joining Platt on center court is **Ali Stroker**, who is the recipient of the 2019 Tony Award for Best Performance by an Actress in



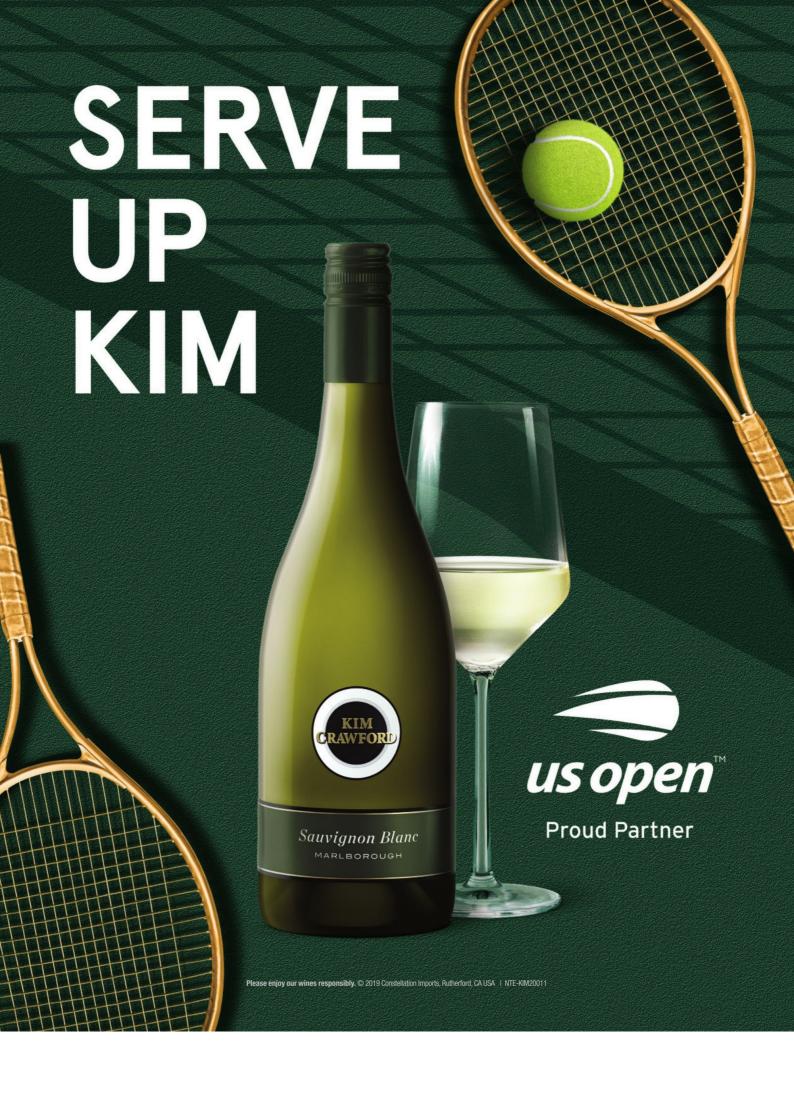


a Featured Role, portraying Ado Annie in the Tony Award-winning revival of *Oklahoma!* currently on Broadway. Stroker made her Broadway debut in the revival of *Spring Awakening*, becoming the first actor in a wheelchair to appear on Broadway, and in television was a finalist on "The Glee Project" and guest starred on "Glee." She will conclude the Opening Night Ceremony by performing the National Anthem, where she will be joined on court by the FDNY Color Guard and the NYPD Honor Guard, which will be part of the Opening Night Ceremony for the 18th consecutive year.

The Opening Night Ceremony will also celebrate **Rod Laver** and his landmark achievement at the 1969 US Open, when he completed the Grand Slam for the second time in his career. No other man has won all four majors in the same year since then.

The Opening Night Ceremony will be carried live by ESPN2 in the U.S. and by a host of international broadcasters around the world.

32 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org



Around the Grounds

Special activities and attractions at the US Open are available for everyone to enjoy.

There promises to be plenty for you to see and experience as you spend your time at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center and make your way around the US Open grounds. Be sure to stop by these booths and attractions.

American Express

The fan favorite American Express Radio "Live at the Open!" returns again, offering Card Members personal radios so they can listen to live broadcast coverage, match updates, special features and interviews. Radios are available at five different locations throughout the grounds and on the Club Level of Arthur Ashe Stadium. Be sure to check the US Open Grounds Map for exact locations. (Radios are available with any American Express® Card between August 26 and September 8, and are available while supplies last. Limit one per Card Member.)

Fans can also stop by the American Express Radio show nightly at 6:00 p.m. in front of the US Open American Express Fan Experience to get insights from tennis experts.

Have a question? Stop by US Open Guest Information hosted by American Express, located at the East Gate, Court 13 and near Arthur Ashe Stadium. The knowledgeable staff is there to provide assistance and information to help all fans maximize their visit to the US Open.

Don't forget to stop by the American Express Exhibit by the South Plaza fountains for a one-of-a-kind US Open photo opp.

Bermuda

Swing by the Bermuda booth near Court 15 and transport yourself to this 21-square-mile island that introduced the sport of tennis to America in 1874. With instaworthy photo opps, daily giveaways and a chance to win a trip for two to Bermuda. We hope you will soon be planning your trip to Bermuda, the official tourism partner of the US Open.

Chase

Catch key matches no matter where you sit with the Chase Charge & Watch, a live-video mobile charger. It will simultaneously charge your phone while giving you video access to watch multiple matches—without using any of your data! Chargers are available to everyone and can be checked out and returned at the Chase booths located in the South Plaza or adjacent to the Food Village. Supplies are limited.

Make sure you visit the Chase booth located near the South Gate



entrance for a chance to win great prizes that will help you Make More of the Open. And don't miss your chance to snap a photo with the Men's and Women's Singles Championship trophies!

Short on cash? There are 14 Chase ATMs conveniently located throughout the grounds and in Arthur Ashe Stadium as well as Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Emirates Airline

Visit the Emirates Airline activation booth in the South Plaza area for your chance to win daily prizes and to check out the one-of-a-kind gravity box photo booth. Join the #EmiratesPlay conversation for another chance to win!

evian

Visit the evian booth at Court 15 and take part in the evian Flip It For Good challenge! Recycle as many bottles as you can in 30 seconds for your chance to win US Open finals tickets! Share your video on social with #flipitforgood and #eviansweepstakes to enter. To learn more, visit evianiwannawin.com.

IBM

The IBM Experience, located on the corner of Arthur Ashe Stadium and next to Mojito Restaurant & Bar, brings you behind the scenes of the US Open and gives you unprecedented access to one of the most powerful AI engines in the world—IBM Watson. Now you can test Watson's ability to recognize the sights and sounds of the game, creating your very own "AI Tennis Highlight" in the process. Learn how IBM is changing the game and changing the world.

IHG Hotels & Resorts

The IHG® Experience, located near the South Gate entrance, gives fans a place to relax and cool off in luxury, as only IHG® Hotels & Resorts can provide. Upon arrival, guests can sample delightful infused water,

34 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org

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sign up for IHG® Rewards Club, or dream up their next vacation using our world map of luxury destinations. Before leaving, guests will receive a complimentary cooling towel that will keep them refreshed as they enjoy the matches and their time on the tournament grounds. Follow along and join the conversation with #ExperienceIHG.

Mercedes-Benz

Experience the latest models and newest automotive technology at all Mercedes-Benz locations throughout the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Challenge yourself by competing in the Mercedes-Benz Race to Ace game and have your photo taken with an image of Roger Federer in the Brand Center near the South Plaza.

Virtually interact with Mercedes-Benz Brand Ambassador Sloane Stephens through augmented reality featuring the Mercedes-Benz User Experience (MBUX). Improve your game with the 2017 US Open Champion herself and share your personal experience on social media! #ServeLikeSloane. Located at the East Gate Showroom.

Polo Ralph Lauren

As the Official Outfitter of the US Open, Polo Ralph Lauren is pleased to offer two locations where fans can purchase the latest Polo Ralph Lauren US Open apparel: Ground Level in Louis Armstrong Stadium and on the Club Level in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The Polo Ralph Lauren Custom Shop is back for the 2019 US Open, and Polo will offer a selection of customization options for guests to create their own US Open Polo mesh shirt, fleece tote bag and water bottle.

Spectrum

Be sure to stop by the Spectrum Booth by Court 9 to learn about Spectrum Mobile and take a fun photo as you become the ball in the Spectrum tennis ball chair. It's a better way to mobile.

Steve Furgal's International Tennis Tours

As an official US Open travel partner, Steve Furgal's International Tennis Tours is proud to provide tennis tour packages to the US Open and many of the world's major tennis events. The exclusive travel packages include VIP tickets, hospitality, deluxe hotel accommodations, special activities and more. USTA members receive special pricing on all packages. If you're looking for the tennis trip of a lifetime, stop by the booth at Court 15 today to learn more!



Fan Access Pass

Fan Access Pass enables all fans to participate in fun experiences presented by the US Open and its Official Partners. Fans can win tickets to the 2020 US Open, participate in photo and video activations, earn badges for participating and win instant prizes. Unlock 10 badges and automatically win a prize! Get the US Open App to get started!

Avenue of Aces®

Support the USTA Foundation's mission to change the lives of youth through the powerful combination of tennis and education. In commemoration of 50 years of National Junior



Tennis and Learning (NJTL)—the foundation's flagship program—we have a special limited offer of 50 bricks and pavers on our Anniversary Celebration Court on the US Open grounds. Proceeds will support local NJTL chapters that provide opportunities through tennis and in life to build champions on and off the court. For more information, call 914.696.7223 or email foundation@usta.com.

You can also support the foundation by bidding on exclusive experiences any tennis fan would love at Charitybuzz.com/USTAFDN now through September 12. Proceeds benefit tennis and education programs for under-resourced youth.

USTA Membership

Become a USTA member today and help support the USTA's mission to keep tennis growing strong throughout the country. Your membership helps us to strengthen the sport at every level. Stop by the USTA Membership booth in front of Court 16 or log on to usta.com/membership to purchase or renew your membership.

US Open Bookstore

The US Open Bookstore, located at Court 8, carries biographies, histories and children's books.



Chase Review

The Chase Review combines instant replay technology with the "3 plus 1" player challenge system being used at all professional tennis events where an electronic line calling system is in place.

- Each player/team is allowed a maximum of three incorrect challenges per set, after which they are not permitted to challenge again in that set.
- If a set goes to a tie-break, each player/team will receive one additional challenge.
- Challenges may not be carried over from one set to another.



LAVAZZA. IT'S HOW YOU SAY COFFEE IN ITALIAN.





US Open American Express Fan Experience

A returning fan favorite offers engaging activities for all ages.



A visit to the US Open is not complete without a stop in the US Open American Express Fan Experience. Located near the East Gate, the Fan Experience is an indoor "tennis city." Returning for its ninth consecutive year, the Fan Experience treats tennis fans of all ages to a New York City-inspired environment featuring interactive tennis experiences and guest services, plus it is the perfect place to recharge and relax.

Here are some of the fun things you can enjoy in the space:

Rally Remix. New York City is alive with music and sounds that resonate through every corner, right down to the court in Arthur Ashe Stadium. Through imagination, exploration and discovery, create beats and rhythm with the Rally Remix, resulting in an ever-evolving soundtrack. Borough Ball. Your body is the controller in this reimagined version of the classic game of Pong. Step onto an interactive floor—artfully designed to reflect the spirt and culture of New York's five boroughs—to become a player in the game.

The American Express Train. Hop aboard—the American Express train is making express stops on a visual journey through the city. Departing from "Court Street," our subway car will immerse passengers in a subway ride like never before, using audio and visual theater to journey to some of the greatest moments in US Open history.

Tennis Tags. Grab a spray can and express your creativity and love for tennis on one of four digital, tennis and street-art inspired murals.

Card Member Lounge. Nestled on the upper level of the Fan Experience, make the most of your day at the US Open in a lounge inspired by

the iconic New York City Highline. Take advantage of comfortable seating, complimentary phone charging, food and beverage for purchase and more.

Card Member Services. American Express Customer Care Professionals have your back throughout the US Open and are available on-site to provide world-class service.

Fan Court. Interactive programming for fans to play tennis on the only full-size fan court at the US Open. The Fan Court will also be the place for select tennis talent meet and greets.

Net Generation Arcade. Kids and parents alike can enjoy the retroinspired arcade game Net Defenders! Your mission is to destroy the tennis invaders before they reach the net. Play to beat the high score and you can win cool prizes from Net Generation, the Official Youth Tennis of the USTA. But watch out for their powerful returns or it's Game Over!

You definitely don't want to miss the 2019 US Open American Express Fan Experience!



Tap to get \$20 back after you spend \$100 with American Express at the US Open. Visit any Amex® location on site to enroll your eligible Card.*







DON'T live life WITHOUT IT

*Must enroll eligible Card at Amex locations on site. Not all Cards eligible. Terms apply.

Courting Fame

Around the tournament grounds, these legendary champions are receiving special recognition at the 2019 US Open.

Althea Gibson Sculpture Garden

A sculpture of Althea Gibson, who in 1957 became the first African American to the win the U.S. Nationals, the precursor to the US Open, and captured a combined 11 Grand Slam tournament titles, is being unveiled at this year's tournament. Created by sculptor Eric Goulder, this tribute to the pioneering American tennis legend is located in front of Arthur Ashe Stadium. The sculpture will include a unique AR component that brings her history to life via the US Open mobile app.

Billie Jean King Photo Exhibit

Sports icon and lifelong advocate for equality and social justice, Billie Jean King is an inspiration both on and off the tennis court. Marvel at her achievements and activism in the New York Historical Society's traveling exhibition showcasing more than 75 photographs from her life and career, on view at the Chase Center near the East Gate.

Rod Laver Photo Exhibit

Sixteen free-standing Vibrachrome panels display a series of photographs documenting Rod Laver's second Grand Slam, which he completed at the 1969 US Open. Curated by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and in partnership with Rolex, the photo exhibit is located along the 500-foot alleé that connects the Grandstand with Court 17.

Lt. Joe Hunt Military Appreciation Day

The US Open's annual Military Appreciation Day, taking place on Monday, September 2, honors Lt. Joe Hunt, the only player in history to win the U.S. national boys', junior, collegiate and men's singles titles. Lt. Hunt, who won the U.S. Nationals

Clockwise from top left: Althea Gibson, Billie Jean King, Lt. Joe Hunt, Kim Clijsters, the US Open Court of Champions, Rod Laver.

in 1943 while on leave from the Navy, was killed when his fighter plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean in 1945. Military families and wounded warriors from around the country also will be recognized on the court on September 2 and will participate in the coin toss prior to all matches.

Kim Clijsters Court of Champions Induction

The US Open Court of Champions, located between Courts 10 and 13, commemorates the tournament's greatest champions with individual monuments. Kim Clijsters, who won the US Open women's singles title in 2005, then retired in 2007 to start a family, but returned to capture crowns in 2009 and 2010, is being inducted into the Court of Champions on Wednesday, August 28.













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World's Fare



Whether you are in the mood for a light snack, lunch, dinner, meeting friends for cocktails or satisfying a sweet tooth, the US Open offers a wide variety of premium dining experiences.

RESTAURANTS

Aces

Enjoy local and seasonal seafood creations by Ed Brown, creator of Ed's Chowder House, and sushi prepared by Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto. Club Level, Arthur Ashe Stadium, between Gates 3 and 4. (Available to Courtside Box seat holders and Luxury Suite guests.)

Champions Bar & Grill

The Grill features premium steaks, hearty salads and fresh seafood prepared by Benjamin Steakhouse, consistently rated one of New York City's best. Club Level, Arthur Ashe Stadium, between Gates 3 and 4. (Available to Courtside Box seat holders and Luxury Suite guests.)

US Open Club

The US Open Club is famous for its Chef's Table and seasonal selections of American cuisine. Ground floor, Arthur Ashe Stadium. (Available to Silver Loge Box seat holders, as well as to Subscription Series ticket holders for a nominal entrance fee.)

Heineken Red Star Patio Café

Enjoy outdoor seating and seasonal food paired with a Heineken or a summer specialty cocktail. Located outside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Mojito Restaurant & Bar

Mojito features a menu filled with luscious Latin specialties in a whimsical garden. Located outside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Emirates Sports Cafe

Serving up standard pub fare, the Emirates Sports Cafe is a great place to relax. And make sure to check out the sports memorabilia that highlights Emirates' global presence in the sporting world. *Near Courts 6 and 7, top level.*

CONCESSIONS

Oyster Bar 7

Oyster Bar 7 offers fresh oysters, lobster rolls and crab cakes and features a menu curated by Lure Fishbar. Between Court 7 and the Grandstand.

Pat LaFrieda Meat Co.

New York's "King of Meat" Pat LaFrieda serves his signature Filet Mignon Steak Sandwich and other favorites. South Plaza.

Grey Goose Bar

Home of the Honey Deuce, the US Open signature cocktail, and a full service bar. Food Village, Grandstand Food Village and Louis Armstrong Concourse.

Lavazza Café

Authentic Italian hot and iced coffee, espresso, café latte and nitro cold brew. Food Village and Court 6.

Kim Crawford Wine Bar

Enjoy a diverse offering of Kim Crawford wines and refreshing frosé at this full service bar. Food Village.

Backyard X 17

Concession stands for Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Shop, Crepes, Dumpling Galaxy, Franks & Fries. Located outside Court 12.

Food Village

The US Open Food Village offers regional cuisine and specialty items. Concessions include Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Shop, Butterfly, Curry Kitchen, Field Trip, Fish Shack, Franks & Fries, Fuku, Glatt Kosher, Hill Country BBQ, Korilla BBQ, Neopolitan Express and Prime Burger.

Grandstand Food Village

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Shop, Chicken Country, Mexican, Neopolitan Express and Prime Burger.

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 43

Sustainability at the US Open

Our courts are blue, but we continue to keep green.

The US Open is proud to be entering the 12th year of its environmental initiatives program aimed at lessening the event's ecological footprint and helping to create a more sustainable future. Earlier this year, the USTA became one of the first major North American organizations to sign the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework. Joining the other three Grand Slam tournaments, as well as other sport

organizations around the world, the USTA has committed to support the Framework's principles to combat climate change and use sport as a unifying tool to drive climate awareness and action among global citizens. Through its work at the US Open, the USTA has already reduced harmful greenhouse gas emissions by more than 10,000 metric tons through waste diversion, recycled paper use and renewable energy certificates. The USTA looks forward to making an even greater impact in 2019.

With a focus on climate action around the globe, the US Open has increased its investment in climate-intelligent humanitarian initiatives for 2019. Continuing its investment in the project providing improved cookstoves in Malawi, the US Open will include fan travel for Finals Weekend in its total, which already encompasses player travel to compete in the event and employee travel to work the event. This equates to approximately 10 million miles traveled by airplane, car or subway. In addition, all unavoidable on-site fuel usage to run the event is accounted for in this contribution. Through this initiative, the USTA is helping to save more than three tons of firewood and six tons of CO2 emissions each year-contributing to the environment on a global scale. On a more local scale, the project provides a cleaner cooking option for families and prevents exposure to indoor cooking smoke, which is the world's leading killer of children

US Open sponsors are also making significant contributions to sustainability at the US Open.

For example, did you know that evian bottles are not only recyclable, but also made from at least 25 percent recycled material and will reach 100 percent (excluding cap and label) by 2025? Evian's "Flip it For Good" campaign brings a fun twist to encourage fans to recycle their

bottles at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. This helps the US Open recycle nearly seven tons of plastic during the event and divert 97 percent of waste from landfill.

The 2019 US Open ballperson polos, shorts and skorts provided by Polo Ralph Lauren are proudly made from recycled materials. Each uniform is made from approximately 10 plastic bottles. In addition, Wilson

racquet stringers at the US Open will no longer be using plastic bags to wrap the 5,300-plus racquets strung during the three weeks of the event. And working with Wilson, the US Open will be recycling all of the used racquet strings from the event; that's more than 35 miles of string.

The US Open is proud to have earned LEED Silver certification for Louis Armstrong Stadium, which premiered at the 2018 US Open. LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. A number of sustainable design elements were incorporated into Louis Armstrong Stadium, including fixtures that use 40 percent less water than standard buildings, landscape that is designed to use 55 percent less water than traditional landscaping and low-emitting paints and finishes. In addition, during construction, 95 percent of waste was recycled. This is the third LEED certified structure at the home of the US Open.

Earlier this year, the USTA received the Green Sports Alliance's Environmental Leadership Award. This award is among the most prestigious of sports greening awards and is given to an organization that has demonstrated extraordinary leadership toward sustainability, environmental stewardship and community engagement. We thank all of our fans, sponsors, vendors and partners who helped make this award

possible and support our efforts to reduce, reuse, recycle and turn one of the highest-attended annual sporting events in the world into the most environmentally conscious.









—Lauren Tracy





FLIP, SHARE, WIN.



Help us recycle for a chance to win finals tickets!

Flip your bottle into



- Share with #flipitforgood and #eviansweepstakes
- Win be entered for a chance to win US Open finals tickets! evian will also remove one bottle from nature for every flip shared

Stop by the evian booth at Court 15!



For contest details visit: www.evianiwannawin.com Contest Sponsor: Danone Waters of America, Inc.

Covering the Courts

Broadcast coverage of the 2019 US Open is airing in more than 200 countries and territories and includes action from all 16 tournament courts.

ESPN is presenting the US Open in 2019 for an 11th consecutive year and the fifth year as exclusive domestic media partner, providing comprehensive live coverage. ESPN's networks will showcase firstball-to-last-ball coverage throughout the tournament, with nearly 140 hours on TV via ESPN and ESPN2, while offering tennis fans a "digital grounds pass" with more than 1,300 hours of coverage from all 16 courts streaming live across ESPN3, ESPN+ and the ESPN App. Additionally, ESPNEWS and ESPN+ will combine to deliver exclusive coverage of this year's Qualifying Tournament, as well as coverage of US Open Fan Week activities taking place around the grounds. ABC will also broadcast Arthur Ashe Kids' Day on Sunday, August 25.

Tennis Channel will deliver daily US Open preview and highlight shows, as well as extensive match encore programming.

In addition to its domestic coverage, the 2019 US Open will also be showcased around the world by its international broadcast media partners. Eurosport is the exclusive broadcast partner of the US Open in continental Europe, reaching 52 countries. WOWOW has partnered with the US Open since 1992 and holds the exclusive US Open television rights in Japan. Other international partners include Prime Video in the United Kingdom and Ireland; CCTV and Tencent in China; Star India in the Indian subcontinent; belN Sports in the Middle East and North Africa; ESPN International in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America and Oceania; Fox Sports in Southeast Asia; TSN and RDS in Canada; and SuperSport in Sub-Saharan Africa.



















Brad Gilbert







Patrick McEnroe



Chris McKendry



Patrick Mouratoglou



Tom Rinaldi

Pam Shriver

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LIVE FROM FIRST BALL TO LAST BALL **AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 8**

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US Open Digital

Follow the US Open anytime, anywhere!

USOpen.org and the Official US Open App ensure you'll never miss a moment of the 2019 US Open.

Watch or listen to matches in real-time, follow match scores with near-live highlights and dig deeper into the key stats of every matchup on your device of choice.

US Open NOW

In 2019, US Open NOW will debut as the live companion channel to the traditional live match broadcast. It will showcase the entire fan experience on the grounds, the food and drinks, the behind-the-scenes stories and interviews, and will also introduce new original content franchises. Watch all tournament long on **USOpen.org.**

Around the Grounds

The App is a must-have while you're on site!

Enhanced Grounds Map is your mission control to best navigate the grounds. Follow live scores on every court. Find your next snack, meal or drink. Use it to map out your next move.

Ask the Open is your Al-powered chatbot that will answer your questions in real-time with answers that reflect your specific location on the grounds.

Fan Access Pass enables you to participate in incredible experiences presented by the US Open and its sponsors across the grounds. Register now for a chance to win instant prizes, including tickets to the 2020 US Open!

US Open Discover allows you to get up close and personal with legendary players through Augmented Reality. Walk the grounds with your US Open app to find hidden AR experiences. Visit the brand-new Althea Gibson statue and other sites to get started!





Share Your Experience

Join the Conversation and share your experience using #USOpen.









Access to all things US Open is just a click, tap or swipe away





The Winners: Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka



Follow the US Open on the go.

US Open App







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2019 US Open Match Schedule

Date/ Session	Day/ Evening	Time	Featured Matches
Monday, Augu	st 26		
1	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's 1st Round
2	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's 1st Round
Tuesday, Augu	ıst 27		
3	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's 1st Round
4	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's 1st Round
Wednesday, A	ugust 28		
5	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's 2nd Round
6	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's 2nd Round
Thursday, Aug	just 29		
7	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's 2nd Round
8	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's 2nd Round
Friday, Augus	t 30		
9	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's 3rd Round
10	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's 3rd Round
Saturday, Aug	just 31		
11	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's 3rd Round
12	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's 3rd Round
Sunday, Septe	ember 1		
13	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's Round of 16
14	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's Round of 16
Monday, Septe	ember 2		
15	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's Round of 16
16	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's Round of 16
Tuesday, Sept	ember 3		
17	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's Quarterfinals
18	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's Quarterfinals
Wednesday, So	eptember 4		
19	Day	11:00 am	Men's/Women's Quarterfinals
20	Evening	7:00 pm	Men's/Women's Quarterfinals
Thursday, Sep	tember 5	107	
21	Evening	7:00 pm**	Women's Semifinals
Friday, Septer	nber 6		
22	Day	12:00 pm	Men's Doubles Final
	100.000	4:00 pm	Men's Semifinals
Saturday, Sep	tember 7		
23	Day	12:00 pm	Mixed Doubles
	100	4:00 pm	Women's Final
Sunday, Septe	ember 8		
24	Day	1:00 pm	Women's Doubles Final
		4:00 pm	Men's Final
*Schedule subject to change. All times ET.			** Field court start time 12:00 pm.

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Prize Money

The 2019 US Open offers the richest purse in the history of the sport as total compensation tops \$57 million.

Each round's payout is the greatest in Grand Slam tournament history. The USTA worked collaboratively with the ATP Tour and WTA to determine specific prize money levels on a round-by-round basis, including for the US Open Qualifying Tournament.

Both the men's and women's singles champions will earn \$3.85 million, and the men's and women's doubles champion teams will earn \$740,000. The US Open Qualifying Tournament, which this year will see a near 20% increase in total prize money (and a doubling of prize money over the past four years), will offer more than \$3.5 million in prize money for the first time.

The new record prize money total represents an 8% increase over 2018 total compensation. Main draw prize money for the first round has increased by 47%, and for the second round by 46%, over the last four years. By committing to these large increases for the opening rounds, the USTA's goal is to provide a better financial balance that benefits all players.

In addition to the prize money provided to the players, the US Open also becomes the first Grand Slam event to support the ATP Tour and WTA player programs, including pension, with the USTA making a payment of \$1 million (\$500,000 per tour).

2019 US Open Prize Money Schedule

SINGLES (MEN & WOMEN)	Prize Money
Winners	\$3,850,000
Runners-up	1,900,000
Semifinalists	960,000
Quarterfinalists	500,000
Round of 16	280,000
Third Round	163,000
Second Round	100,000
First Round	58,000
Total	\$42,860,000

DOUBLES (MEN & WOMEN-PER TEAM)

Winners	\$740,000
Runners-up	370,000
Semifinalists	175,000
Quarterfinalists	91,000
Round of 16	50,000
Second Round	30,000
First Round	17,000
Total	\$6,496,000

MIXED DOUBLES (PER TEAM)

MINED DOODLES (FER TEAM)	
Winners	\$160,000
Runners-up	76,000
Semifinalists	38,000
Quarterfinalists	19,975
Second Round	11,400
First Round	5,900
Total	\$577,500

SINGLES QUALIFYING (MEN & WOMEN)

Other Events

Total	\$3,584,000
First-Round Losers	11,000
Second-Round Losers	18,000
Third-Round Losers	\$32,000

TOTAL MAIN DRAW & QUALIFYING \$53,517,500

\$650,000

ATP/WTA Transition Programs for Players,	
Including Pension	\$1,000,000
Player Per Diems (Estimated)	\$2,071,200

TOTAL COMPENSATION \$57,238,700

Vearly Totals

Ye	arly Totals
1968	\$100,000
1969	\$125,000
1970	\$176,000
1971	\$160,000
1972	\$160,000
1973	\$227,200
1974	\$271,720
1975	\$309,430
1976	\$416,600
1977	\$462,420
1978	\$552,480
1979	\$563,600
1980	\$654,082
1981	\$1,004,700
1982	\$1,516,000
1983	\$2,001,000
1984	\$2,582,686
1985	\$3,073,500
1986	\$3,450,800
1987	\$3,979,294
1988	\$4,371,500
1989	\$5,124,000
1990	\$6,349,250
1991	\$7,250,000
1992	\$8,556,600
1993	\$9,022,000
1994	\$9,360,100
1995	\$9,862,522
1996	\$10,893,890
1997	\$11,821,890
1998	\$14,000,000
1999	\$14,503,000
2000	\$15,011,000
2001	\$15,461,540
2002	\$16,174,200
2003	\$17,074,000
2004	\$18,217,500
2005	\$19,447,000
2006	\$19,662,500
2007	\$20,831,750
2008	\$21,483,250
2009	\$22,082,750
2010	\$23,618,000
2011	\$24,841,750
2012	\$26,156,000
2013	\$36,545,750
2014	\$39,430,510
2015	\$44,853,400
2016	\$48,903,400
2017	\$50,464,800
2018	\$53,000,000
2019	\$57,238,700



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Hard Road

The way to the US Open winds through the US Open Series.

As if outperforming the world's best players isn't difficult enough, tennis's major tournaments make winning a Grand Slam championship even more challenging by asking the players to excel on four different surfaces. Wimbledon has always been played on grass and Roland Garros has always been conducted on clay (since 1877 and 1891, respectively), while the

US Open, which began as the U.S. National Championships in

1881, was played on grass for nearly a century before switching to clay at Forest Hills in 1975 and then to DecoTurf hard courts when the tournament relocated to Flushing Meadows—Corona Park in 1978. The Australian Open switched to hard courts 10 years later, after being held on grass courts for its first 83 years, and now uses Plexipave hard courts, which is a somewhat slower surface than the US Open's hard courts.

One of the hallmarks of the US Open Series—which links seven summer WTA and ATP Tour tournaments to the US Open—is that it provides the sport's leading players and up-and-coming talents with a succession of opportunities to transition from the clay and grass court tournaments of the spring and early summer to the North American hard court schedule that begins in July. For five consecutive weeks, the Series forms a cohesive summer tennis season that makes stops in Atlanta (BB&T Atlanta Open), Washington, D.C. (Citi Open), San José (Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic), Toronto and Montreal (Rogers Cup), Cincinnati (Western & Southern Open) and Winston-Salem (Winston-Salem Open), before the players arrive in New York for the US Open.

The US Open Series' cohesive schedule not only allows for appointment television, but centralizes the way tennis is viewed in North America, across multiple television and digital platforms. Fans can see today's top champions go head-to-head with tomorrow's emerging stars, such as Amanda Anisimova, Coco Gauff, Frances Tiafoe and Taylor Fritz. Last year, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Aryna Sabalenka, then 20 years old, were named the US Open Series Breakout Performers after both players elevated their games to new heights in the buildup to the US Open.

The USTA continues to invest in both the professional and grassroots elements of the US Open Series to promote the game and grow participation in North America. Since its inception in 2004, the Series has expanded television viewing opportunities, while also increasing attendance and generating new corporate partnerships for its tournaments. In addition, the Series continues to engage its local tournament communities through outreach such as grassroots instruction and activities involving Net Generation, the unified youth tennis initiative of the USTA, including clinics with local chapters of the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network, the flagship program of the USTA Foundation, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.



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World's Finest

The 2019 US Open Junior Championships feature girls and boys from more than 40 nations competing in singles and doubles.

The 2019 US Open Junior Championships, a week-long event that showcases the world's leading junior players ages 18 and under, begins with the girls' and boys' singles draws on Sunday, September 1, and sees the doubles competitions kick off the following day. Play culminates on Finals Weekend, with the doubles championships on Saturday, September 7, and the singles finals on Sunday, September 8.

The girls' and boys' singles tournaments are both 64-player draws, while 32 teams participate in each of the doubles competitions.

The main draw junior matches are preceded by the boys' and girls' singles qualifying tournaments (with free admission) on the East Practice Courts (P10-P20) from Thursday, August 29, through Saturday, August 31. Both of the junior singles qualifying tournaments consist of



32 players attempting to earn one of the eight berths reserved for qualifiers in the main junior singles draws.

American girls have fared especially well this decade in the US Open junior singles, winning four titles. Looking to add to the tally is Emma Navarro, 18, of Charleston, S.C., who was the No. 1 girls' seed at Wimbledon, where she reached the semifinals before falling to Ukraine's Daria Snigur, 17, the eventual champion. Navarro nearly swept the girls' singles and doubles at Roland Garros, claiming the doubles crown with Chloe Beck, 18, of Watkinsville, Ga., but losing to top-seeded Leylah Fernandez, 16, of Canada, in the singles final. Also this year, Navarro and Beck reached the Australian Open girls' doubles final and won the adidas Easter Bowl girls' 18s doubles at Indian Wells, Calif., where

Navarro captured the girls' 18s singles championship.

Other top American girls vying for the 2019 US Open junior titles include Alexa Noel, 16, of Summit, N.J., who lost to Snigur in the Wimbledon singles final; Elizabeth Mandlik, 18, of Delray Beach, Fla., whose mother, Hana Mandlikova, won the US Open women's singles championship in 1985; Hurricane Tyra Black, 18, of Boca Raton, Fla., who has already played in nine junior Grand Slam tournaments; and Savannah Broadus, 16, of Carrollton, Texas, and Abigail Forbes 18, of Raleigh, N.C., who teamed up to take girls' doubles at Wimbledon. Clara Tauson, 16, of Denmark, who attained the world No. 1 junior ranking after defeating Fernandez for the Australian Open title, also figures to be in the mix.



USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 57

FIRST SFRVF



Andy Murray (left) and Victoria Azarenka after winning the US Open Junior Championships.

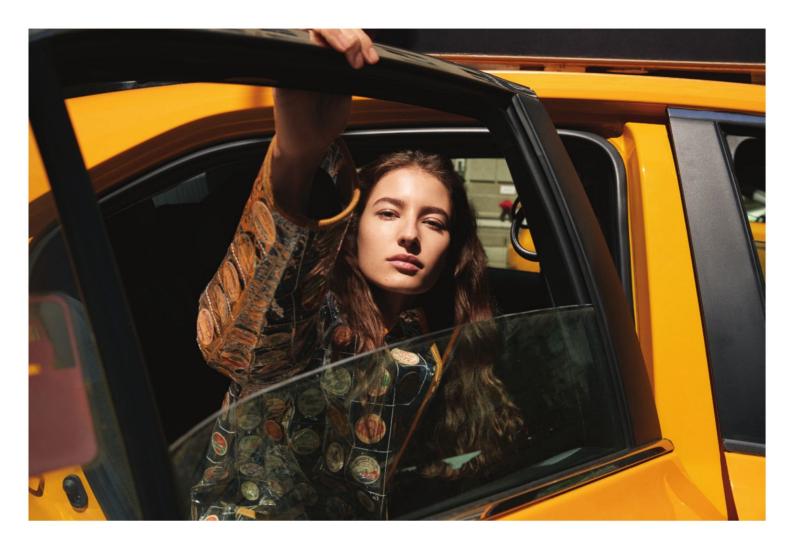
The American boys' contingent is led by four players who competed in last year's junior US Open and have been in the Top 10 in the ITF World Junior Rankings this year: Martin Damm, 15, of Bradenton, Fla., a singles semifinalist at both Roland Garros and Wimbledon, and a finalist in the adidas Easter Bowl boys' 18s singles, whose father, Martin, was men's doubles champion at the 2006 US Open; Toby Kodat, 16, of Bradenton, Fla., a finalist at Roland Garros; Brandon Nakashima, 18, of San Diego, Calif., a boys' singles quarterfinals at last year's US Open; and Emilio Nava, 17, of Woodland Hills, Calif., a boys' singles finalist at the 2019 Australian Open.

Challengers in a strong international field include Shintaro Mochizuki, 16, Japan's first Wimbledon boys' champion; Lorenzo Musetti, 17, of Italy, who won the 2019 Australian Open boys' singles title; Holger Rune, 16, of Denmark, the boy's singles champion at the 2019 French Open; and Jonas Forejtek, 18, of Czech Republic, who reached the round of 16 this year at both the Australian Open and Roland Garros, and teamed with countryman Jiri Lehecka, 17, to win Wimbledon boys' doubles.

Each of the players in this year's US Open Junior Championships hopes to join Stefan Edberg (1983), Jennifer Capriati (1989), Lindsay Davenport (1992), Andy Roddick (2000), Marion Bartoli (2001), Andy Murray (2004) and Victoria Azarenka (2005), who claimed US Open junior singles titles and then a men's or women's Grand Slam singles crown. Boris Becker (1984), Martina Hingis (1994), Roger Federer (1998) and Svetlana Kuznetsova (2001) are among the US Open junior singles finalists who went on to win majors.

US OPEN JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

BOYS' S	INGLES	GIRLS' SINGLES		
2018	Thiago Seyboth Wild (BRA)	2018	Wang Xiyu (CHN)	
2017	Wu Yibing (CHN)	2017	Amanda Anisimova (USA)	
2016	Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)	2016	Kayla Day (USA)	
2015	Taylor Fritz (USA)	2015	Dalma Gálfi (HUN)	
2013	Omar Jasika (AUS)	2013	Marie Bouzkova (CZE)	
	N M		To be the state of	
2013	Borna Coric (CRO)	2013	Ana Konjuh (CRO)	
2012	Filip Peliwo (CAN)	2012	Samantha Crawford (USA)	
2011	Oliver Golding (GBR)	2011	Grace Min (USA)	
2010	Jack Sock (USA)	2010	Daria Gavrilova (RUS)	
2009	Bernard Tomic (AUS)	2009	Heather Watson (GBR)	
2008	Grigor Dimitrov (BUL)	2008	CoCo Vandeweghe (USA)	
2007	Ricardas Berankis (LTU)	2007	Kristina Kucova (SVK)	
2006	Dusan Lojda (CZE)	2006	Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)	
2005	Ryan Sweeting (BAH)	2005	Victoria Azarenka (BLR)	
2004	Andy Murray (GBR)	2004	Michaella Krajicek (NED)	
2003	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA)	2003	Kirsten Flipkens (BEL)	
2002	Richard Gasquet (FRA)	2002	Maria Kirilenko (RUS)	
2001	Gilles Muller (LUX)	2001	Marion Bartoli (FRA)	
2000	Andy Roddick (USA)	2000	Maria Emilia Salerni (ARG)	
1999	Jarkko Nieminen (FIN)	1999	Lina Krasnoroutskaia (RUS)	
1998	David Nalbandian (ARG)	1998	Jelena Dokic (AUS)	
1997	Arnaud di Pasquale (FRA)	1997	Cara Black (ZIM)	
1996	Daniel Elsner (GER)	1996	Mirjana Lucic (CRO)	
1995	Nicolas Kiefer (GER)	1995	Tara Snyder (USA)	
1994	Sjeng Schalken (NED)	1994	Meilen Tu (USA)	
1993	Marcelo Rios (CHI)	1993	Maria Francesca Bentivoglio (ITA)	
1992	Brian Dunn (USA)	1992	Lindsay Davenport (USA)	
1991	Leander Paes (IND)	1991	Karina Habsudova (CZE)	
1990	Andrea Gaudenzi (ITA)	1990	Magdalena Maleeva (BUL)	
1989	Jonathan Stark (USA)	1989	Jennifer Capriati (USA)	
1988	Nicolas Pereira (VEN)	1988	Carrie Cunningham (USA)	
1987	David Wheaton (USA)	1987	Natasha Zvereva (RUS)	
1986	Javier Sanchez (ESP)	1986	Elly Hakami (USA)	
1985	Tim Trigueiro (USA)	1985	Laura Garrone (ITA)	
1984	Mark Kratzmann (AUS)	1984	Katerina Maleeva (BUL)	
1983	Stefan Edberg (SWE)	1983	Elizabeth Minter (AUS)	
1982	Patrick Cash (AUS)	1982	Beth Herr (USA)	
1981	Thomas Hogstedt (SWE)	1981	Zina Garrison (USA)	
1980	Mike Falberg (USA)	1980	Susan Mascarin (USA)	
1979	Scott Davis (USA)	1979	Alycia Moulton (USA)	
1978	Per Hjertquist (SWE)	1978	Linda Siegel (USA)	
1977	Van Winitsky (USA)	1977	Claudia Casabianca (ARG)	
1976	Ricardo Ycaza (ECU)	1976	Marise Kruger (RSA)	
1975	Howard Schoenfield (USA)	1975	Natasha Chmyeva (RUS)	
1974	Billy Martin (USA)	1974	Ilana Kloss (RSA)	
1973	Billy Martin (USA)		•	
	a a			



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Wheels in Motion

The world's top wheelchair tennis players showcase their talents at the US Open.

Featuring 20 of the top wheelchair tennis athletes from around the globe, the 2019 US Open Wheelchair Tennis Competition, an event on the international professional wheelchair tennis tour, consists of six draws across two divisions: the Open division, with men's singles and doubles, and women's singles and doubles; and the Quad division of singles and doubles. Play begins Thursday, September 5, and concludes on Sunday, September 8, with wheelchair tennis following the same rules as able-bodied tennis, except that the wheelchair player is allowed two bounces of the ball.

Invented in the U.S. in 1977, wheelchair tennis was introduced to the US Open in 2005 to showcase the Paralympic sport, with the competition initially consisting of the four Open division events. Quad singles and doubles-for players with a substantial loss of function in one or both upper extremities, as well as a substantial loss of function in one or both lower extremities—were added to the US Open schedule in 2007, the same year that wheelchair events were first played at all four Grand Slam tournaments (although Wimbledon did not begin featuring singles until 2016). The competition is held annually at the US Open, except for when the Paralympic Games are staged every fourth year.

While Novak Djokovic attempts to reach the US Open men's singles final for an Open Era record ninth time, the record for most singles final appearances in the US Open Wheelchair Tennis Competition has been set even higher. Esther Vergeer of the Netherlands, who retired from wheelchair tennis in 2013 at age 31, posted an 18-0 record in singles (and 11-0 in doubles) at the US Open as part of her 10-year, 470-match winning streak. David Wagner, meanwhile, is looking to add to his finals marks at this year's US Open.

Wagner, 45, of Chula Vista, Calif., first became the world's top-ranked player in Quad singles in 2003 and has played in all nine previous Quad singles finals at the US Open, winning the title three times. He has enjoyed even more success in Quad doubles, having won the competition all nine times it has been held,





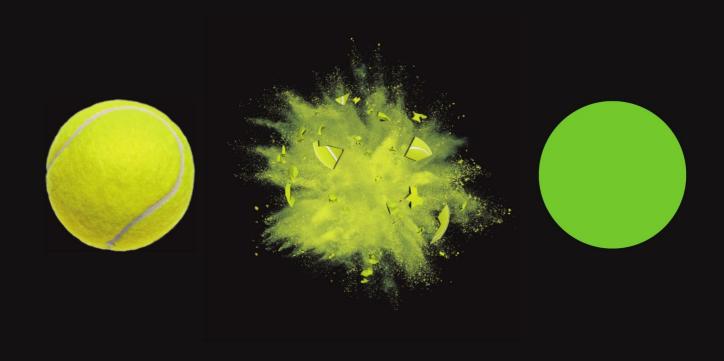


including last year, when he teamed with Andrew Lapthorne of Great Britain for the second year in a row, after partnering seven times with fellow American Nick Taylor.

Shingo Kunieda, 35, of Japan has been similarly dominant in the Open division. Having attained the world No. 1 men's singles ranking for the first time in 2006, he has captured six US Open Wheelchair Tennis Competition singles crowns and has reached the championship match in New York eight times, including in 2018, when he was defeated by Alfie Hewett of Great Britain.

Diede de Groot, 22, of the Netherlands is making only her third US Open appearance, yet is carrying on the legacy of her compatriot Vergeer. After advancing to the women's singles final in her first visit, de Groot claimed last year's singles title by defeating three-time defending champion Yui Kamiji of Japan, and then paired with Kamiji to win the doubles crown. This year, de Groot captured Roland Garros women's singles to become the first wheelchair tennis player to hold singles titles at all four majors at the same time.

Here at the 2019 US Open, Gustavo Fernandez, 25, of Argentina is seeking to become the first wheelchair tennis player to achieve a Grand Slam in men's singles, while Dylan Alcott, 28, of Australia is going for the Grand Slam in Quad singles.



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US Open Anniversaries

5 years ago (2014)

The US Open debuts the first phase of the site-wide, five-year transformation of the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.



▲ 10 years ago (2009)

Kim Clijsters becomes the first wild card to win a US Open singles title.



▲ 15 years ago (2004)

Roger Federer wins the first of his record five consecutive US Open singles titles.

> 20 years ago (1999)

Serena Williams wins her first US Open singles title and her first US Open doubles title with her sister Venus.

▼ 25 years ago (1994)

Andre Agassi becomes the first unseeded player to win a US Open singles title.



30 yearsago (1989)

Ivan Lendl sets an Open Era mark by playing in his eighth consecutive US Open singles final.



35 years ago (1984)

Super Saturday is born as all four Stadium Court matches—capped off by two men's semifinals and the women's final—reach the maximum number of sets.



▲ 40 years ago (1979)

Tracy Austin becomes the youngest US Open champion at age 16 years, 8 months and 28 days.



▲ 45 years ago (1974)

Billie Jean King wins her third and final US Open singles title.



50 years ago (1969)

Rod Laver completes his second Grand Slam and the fourth in tennis history.



Major Consequences

How the US Open became a Grand Slam championship.

The Grand Slam tournaments are surely tennis's yardsticks. Whenever we desire to measure how players stack up against their peers, we check first to see how they've fared at the four majors. Serena Williams and Roger Federer are the foremost examples, widely regarded as the greatest players in the game today because they've won the most Grand Slam singles titles in the Open Era among women and men, respectively.

And yet the accomplishments of these two all-time greats might be viewed in an entirely different light were it not for one of the sport's earliest champions, Henry Warner Slocum Jr. The son of a Union Civil War general who commanded the left wing in Major General William Tecumseh Sherman's March to the Sea, Harry Slocum carved a path of his own during tennis's formative years by playing in four consecutive U.S. National Championships men's singles finals and winning twice. It was his efforts when he was not playing, however, that ensured his place in the International Tennis Hall of Fame's inaugural induction class. For without Slocum's pioneering diplomacy, Grand Slam tennis might never have begun.

The U.S. National Championships (which was renamed the US Open in 1968) was just seven years old when Slocum, a budding New York lawyer, lost the 1887 title match to Richard Sears, who won his seventh consecutive "championship of America," still the tournament record.

A year later, Slocum became the first man besides Sears to take the title, and he repeated as champion in 1889, sweeping the singles and doubles crowns. Continuing to compete at the U.S. Nationals until he was 51, Slocum devoted himself to the game off the court as extensively as he did on its grass lawns. The author of *Lawn Tennis in Our Own Country*, an acclaimed early history of the game, he began a seven-year

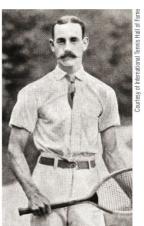
Harry Slocum (top), a three-time major champion, played a central role in the creation of Grand Slam tennis. The U.S. National Championships were staged as a major at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., for the first time in 1924 (right) and remained as the tournament's principal home for the next half century.

stint as an officer of the newly formed United States National Lawn Tennis Association (now the USTA) in 1887, culminating in his becoming president of the association in 1892 and 1893. He was also elected vicepresident in 1912 and 1913, his return to higher office perfectly timed.

In 1912, the United States was one of 18 nations invited to join the International Lawn Tennis Federation (now the ITF), which was being founded to bring together all national tennis associations under the governance of a single entity. Yet when the world governing body was formally established in 1913, Slocum and his fellow USTA leaders refused to let the United States become a charter member.

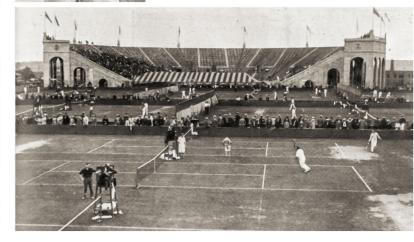
They disagreed with the ITF rules relating to ball standards, foot faults and rest periods, as well as with Great Britain being assigned more votes than any other nation on tennis matters. The biggest sticking point, however, was the ITF's insistence on designating tournaments as "world's championships" and appointing Wimbledon as the world championship on grass courts "in perpetuity," relegating the U.S. National Championships to second-class status.

Slocum found himself back in the middle of things a decade later, when USTA officials, sensing that the ITF's position was softening,



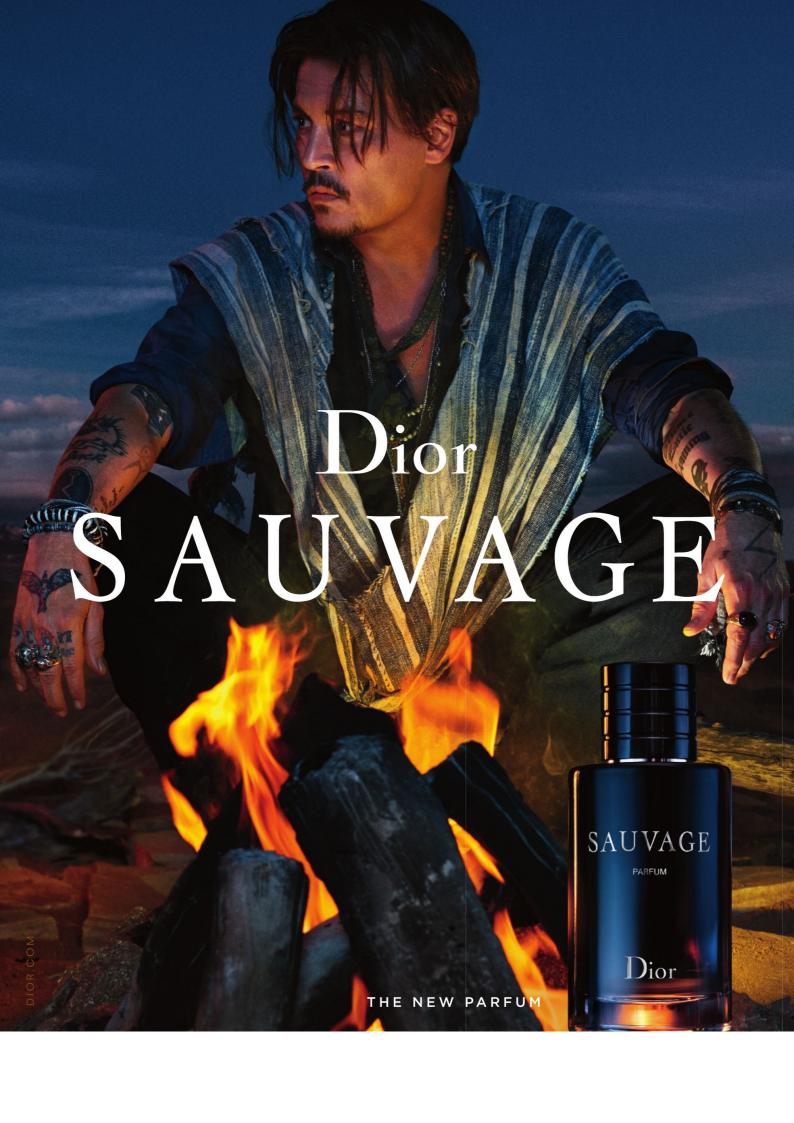
asked him in late 1922 to sail to London and represent the United States' interests at a pair of ITF meetings. There, he negotiated an accord that would change the sport of tennis for generations to come. In exchange for agreeing to several rules changes, which historically yielded tennis's first set of standardized international rules, Slocum convinced the ITF to abolish its designation of tournaments as world championships.

"It was a remarkable demonstration of the growth and international charac-



ter of the game," Slocum said of the negotiations, which the ITF made public at its General Meeting in Paris on March 16, 1923. In addition to adopting a set of standard playing rules and admitting the United States, plus four other nations into the world body, the ITF announced that in place of world titles it would begin recognizing the national championships of Australia, France, Great Britain and the United States as the sport's four major tournaments. Although the term "Grand Slam championships" would not be coined for another decade, the era of tennis's "Big Four" tournaments had officially arrived.

—Rick Rennert



US Open Champions











MEN'S SINGLES

WOMEN'S SINGLES

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

MIXED DOUBLES

2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011 2010	A Novak Djokovic Rafael Nadal Stan Wawrinka Novak Djokovic Marin Cilic Rafael Nadal Andy Murray Novak Djokovic Rafael Nadal	Naomi Osaka Sloane Stephens Angelique Kerber Flavia Pennetta Serena Williams Serena Williams Serena Williams Samantha Stosur Kim Clijsters	▲ Mike Bryan - Jack Sock Jean-Julien Rojer - Horia Tecau Jamie Murray - Bruno Soares Pierre-Hugues Herbert - Nicolas Mahut Bob Bryan - Mike Bryan Leander Paes - Radek Stepanek Bob Bryan - Mike Bryan Jurgen Melzer - Philipp Petzschner Bob Bryan - Mike Bryan	Ashleigh Barty - CoCo Vandeweghe Chan Yung-Jan - Martina Hingis Bethanie Mattek-Sands - Lucie Safarova Martina Hingis - Sania Mirza Ekaterina Makarova - Elena Vesnina Andrea Hlavackova - Lucie Hradecka Sara Errani - Roberta Vinci Liezel Huber - Lisa Raymond Vania King - Yaroslava Shvedova	▲ Bethanie Mattek-Sands - Jamie Murray Martina Hingis - Jamie Murray Laura Siegemund - Mate Pavic Martina Hingis - Leander Paes Sania Mirza - Bruno Soares Andrea Hlavackova - Max Mirrıyi Ekaterina Makarova - Bruno Soares Melanie Oudin - Jack Sock Liezel Huber - Bob Bryan
2009 2008 2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000	Juan Martin del Potro Roger Federer Roger Federer Roger Federer Roger Federer Roger Federer Andy Roddick Pete Sampras Lleyton Hewitt Marat Safin	Kim Clijsters Serena Williams Justine Henin Maria Sharapova Kim Clijsters Svetlana Kuznetsova Justine Henin-Hardenne Serena Williams Venus Williams Venus Williams	Lukas Dlouhy - Leander Paes Bob Bryan - Mike Bryan Simon Aspelin - Julian Knowle Martin Damm - Leander Paes Bob Bryan - Mike Bryan Mark Knowles - Daniel Nestor Jonas Bjorkman - Todd Woodbridge Mahesh Bhupathi - Max Mirnyi Wayne Black - Kevin Ullyett Lleyton Hewitt - Max Mirnyi	Serena Williams - Venus Williams Cara Black - Liezel Huber Nathalie Dechy - Dinara Safina Nathalie Dechy - Venara Zvonareva Lisa Raymond - Samantha Stosur Virginia Ruano Pascual - Paola Suárez Virginia Ruano Pascual - Paola Suárez Virginia Ruano Pascual - Paola Suárez Lisa Raymond - Rennae Stubbs Julie Halard-Decugis - Ai Sugiyama	Carly Gullickson - Travis Parrott Cara Black - Leander Paes Victoria Azarenka - Max Mirnyi Martina Navratilova - Bob Bryan Daniela Hantuchova - Mahesh Bhupathi Vera Zvonareva - Bob Bryan Katarina Srebotnik - Bob Bryan Lisa Raymond - Mike Bryan Rennae Stubbs - Todd Woodbridge Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario - Jared Palmer
1999 1998 1997 1996 1995 1994 1993 1992 1991 1990	Andre Agassi Patrick Rafter Patrick Rafter Pete Sampras Pete Sampras Andre Agassi Pete Sampras Stefan Edberg Stefan Edberg Pete Sampras	Serena Williams Lindsay Davenport Martina Hingis Steffi Graf Steffi Graf Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario Steffi Graf Monica Seles Monica Seles Gabriela Sabatini	Sebastien Lareau - Alex O'Brien Sandon Stolle - Cyril Suk Yevgeny Kafelnikov - Daniel Vacek Todd Woodbridge - Mark Woodforde Todd Woodbridge - Mark Woodforde Jacco Eltingh - Paul Haarhuis Ken Flach - Rick Leach Jim Grabb - Richey Reneberg John Fitzgerald - Anders Jarryd Pieter Aldrich - Danie Visser	Serena Williams - Venus Williams Martina Hingis - Jana Novotna Lindsay Davenport - Jana Novotna Gigi Fernandez - Natasha Zvereva Gigi Fernandez - Natasha Zvereva Jana Novotna - Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario - Helena Sukova Gigi Fernandez - Natalia Zvereva Pam Shriver - Natalia Zvereva Gigi Fernandez - Martina Navratilova	Ai Sugiyama - Mahesh Bhupathi Serena Williams - Max Mirnyi Manon Bollegraf - Rick Leach Lisa Raymond - Patrick Galbraith Meredith McGrath - Matt Lucena Elna Reinach - Patrick Galbraith Helena Sukova - Todd Woodbridge Nicole Provis - Mark Woodforde Manon Bollegraf - Tom Nijssen Elizabeth Sayers Smylie - Todd Woodbridge
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ON THEIR MARKS

The race for tennis supremacy comes to the US Open, though it's far from the home stretch.

BY PETER BODO

he US Open brings the Grand Slam calendar to a close; so it's often about final determinations and the outcome of last-chance efforts. The tournament has frequently determined who will finish the year ranked No. 1, even though two months of play remain. It often decides who has the best Grand Slam season, regardless of rankings. It can conclusively dash the final hopes of players who dreamed of making breakthroughs, but struggled at the three previous majors.

This year is a bit different. This year, the US Open begins something: a race that will resonate in history and likely rivet the public for the foreseeable future. It's the race for the grail, the ultimate jackpot in men's tennis: status as the GOAT (Greatest of All Time). The three contestants: Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

It all began with two missed shots by Federer, that pair of match points he failed to convert in his epic encounter against Djokovic in the Wimbledon final. Had Federer made one count, he would have bagged Grand Slam tournament title No. 21, putting him a nearly insurmountable three majors ahead of Nadal, who has claimed 18 majors, and six in front of Djokovic and his 15 Grand Slam singles crowns. But since Djokovic, the reigning No. 1, went on to win, his 15 is now 16, Federer remains at 20 and we have a real race.

So buckle up your seat belt and prepare for a supercharged, high-stakes US Open. Let's look at the Big Three, as well as some other contenders.

Novak Djokovic, now with 16 majors, is closing the gap in the race for Grand Slam singles titles.



Roger Federer has been the record holder for most men's Grand Slam tournament singles crowns since claiming his 15th major at 2009 Wimbledon.

Djokovic has cruised into New York with the wind at his back and, surely, a higher degree of fan appreciation than ever before. It's only fitting, given that the top-ranked player has worked so hard to insert himself into a conversation that, for the better part of a decade, has had just two interlocutors: Federer and Nadal. Many fans of "Fedal" have resented Djokovic for being so importunate, and the toll it has taken on the Serbian star was poignantly expressed in a comment he made after winning Wimbledon. As that final grew agonizingly close, the partisan Centre Court crowd roared, "Let's go, Roger, let's go!" Djokovic said later that he didn't mind. He had already trained himself to hear the chant as, "Lets go, Novak, let's go!"

Wimbledon was a career-defining moment for Djokovic, as well as the equivalent of jet fuel launching his planned trip to GOAT-hood. He's aware of the opportunity and doesn't shy away from discussing it. "It seems like I'm getting closer," he said. "The fact that they (Federer and Nadal) made history motivates me, as well, inspires me to try to do what they have done, what they have achieved and even more. Whether I'm going to be able to do it or not, I don't know. [But] I'm not really looking at age as a restriction of any kind—for me, at least."

Operative words: "even more."

Interesting point: At age 32, Djokovic is a year younger than Nadal and Federer's junior by more than five years. He has claimed four of the past five Grand Slam tournaments. He left Wimbledon with superior head-to-head records against both of his rivals (28-26 over Nadal, 26-22 with Federer). Djokovic has won 10 majors on hard courts (the Australian Open and US Open surface), just one fewer than Federer, even though Djokovic, for all intents and purposes, wasted four opportunities between the summers of 2016 and 2018. In that period, he experienced a significant slump brought on by injury and turmoil in his personal life. Those crises are long past; Djokovic is a "W" machine once again.

Someone who didn't know that Federer is, well, Federer, might look at his US Open history

and wonder, "Whatever happened to that poor he hasn't won a US Open since. That's a guy?" It's a reasonable question if you blot out decade-long drought.

and wonder, "Whatever happened to that poor guy?" It's a reasonable question if you blot out his overall record in majors. Federer captured five consecutive US Opens, 2004-08, a modern record that isn't likely to be broken any time soon. But while he has continued to make history and log remarkable feats at other venues,

It may not be fair to say Federer has "struggled" for a decade at the US Open. He played two finals, three semis and two quarterfinals. His worst performances still had him vaulting the third round to achieve that universal goal



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Rafael Nadal, with 18 Grand Slam tournament singles championships, just two behind Roger Federer, has won Roland Garros on 12 occasions, an all-time record for a major.

of becoming a "second week" mainstay. But those fourth-round losses, to clay court expert Tommy Robredo in 2013 and to journeyman John Millman in 2018, were baffling. And in the end, no titles were won.

Those New York losses were painful to take, perhaps none more so than the two that foreshadowed his recent Wimbledon loss to Djokovic. Federer had a pair of match points against Djokovic in back-to-back US Opens, starting in 2010. Djokovic survived both times to win. He went on to claim his first US Open title on the second occasion. Federer and Djokovic are 3-3 in the house that Arthur Ashe built, but all three of Federer's wins were before his rival really hit his stride in 2011.

Then there's the third leg of the GOAT tripod: Nadal. His win at the French Open—a record 12th at the same major; nobody else even comes close—signaled that, despite his age and recent history of injuries, he remains the gold standard on clay. The relative ease with which he secured the title once again makes it conceivable that Nadal could surpass his GOAT rivals with his future performances at Roland Garros alone. But Nadal also looked strong in every aspect reaching the Wimbledon semifinals. That bodes well for his US Open

chances on the topspin friendly DecoTurf courts.

Nadal has logged some epic achievements in New York, winning three times. His win over Djokovic in the 2013 final was one of his career masterworks. Last year, Nadal seemed to be on track to defend the title he won in 2017. But he was forced to retire after losing the first two sets to Juan Martin del Potro, because of a flare-up of his chronic knee tendonitis.

The injury-induced interruptions Nadal has experienced have sometimes left him ill-prepared for some majors. It's not obvious in the W-L tables, but Nadal didn't play any competitive tennis (those knees again!) after last year's US Open. His January 2019 return was deferred (again by injury) until the Australian Open. He still made the final there, although Djokovic punched through him in an unexpected straight-set blowout.

Afterward, Nadal gave his rival full credit ("He played fantastic"), but added, "At the same time, when he's playing that way, I need something else. I was not able to have that extra thing tonight." That "extra thing," he went on to explain, was his storied defense, which he was





What is QBREXZA?

QBREXZA is a prescription medication used on the skin to treat excessive underarm sweating (primary axillary hyperhidrosis) in people 9 years of age and older.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about QBREXZA?

Who should not use QBREXZA?

Do not use QBREXZA if you have certain medical conditions that can be made worse by taking an anticholinergic medicine such as glaucoma, severe ulcerative colitis (UC) or certain other serious bowel problems associated with UC, myasthenia gravis, and Sjogren's syndrome.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using QBREXZA?

 Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you have prostate, bladder or kidney problems or problems passing urine; if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed. It is not known if QBREXZA will harm your unborn baby or pass into breastmilk. Tell your healthcare provider and pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines and especially any anticholinergic medicines.

What are the possible side effects of QBREXZA? Serious side effects may include:

- New or worsened urinary retention: People who use QBREXZA may develop new or worse urinary retention. Urinary retention can result from a blockage in your bladder or a larger than normal prostate. Stop using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following symptoms: difficulty urinating; urinating frequently; urinating in a weak stream or drips; full bladder or difficulty emptying your bladder.
- Problems with control of your body temperature:
 QBREXZA can cause you to have decreased
 sweating in areas other than the underarm leading
 to overheating and the development of heat illness
 when in hot or very warm temperatures. Stop
 using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider
 right away if you experience any of the following
 symptoms: lack of sweating on your body; hot or
 red skin; decreased alertness or passing out; fast,
 weak pulse; fast, shallow breathing; increased body
 temperature.

 Blurred Vision: Stop using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider if you develop blurred vision. Do not drive, operate machinery, or do hazardous work until your vision is clear.

The most common side effects of QBREXZA in clinical studies were dry mouth; dilation of the pupils; sore throat; skin redness, burning/stinging or itching in underarm area; headache; problems with urination; blurred vision; nasal, throat, eye, and skin dryness; and constipation. These are not all the possible side effects of QBREXZA. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

QBREXZA is for use on the skin in the underarm only. Wash your hands right away after you apply QBREXZA and have thrown away the cloth.

Please see Brief Summary of Patient Information on the following page.





BRIEF SUMMARY OF PATIENT INFORMATION QBREXZA™ (kew brex' zah) (glycopyrronium) cloth. 2.4%

Important Information: QBREXZA is for use on the skin in the underarm area only.

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QBREXZA is a prescription anticholinergic medicine used on the skin (topical) to treat excessive underarm sweating (primary axillary hyperhidrosis) in adults and children 9 years of age and older. It is not known if QBREXZA is safe and effective in children under 9 years of age.

Who should not use QBREXZA?

Do not use QBREXZA if you have certain medical conditions that can be made worse by taking an anticholinergic medicine such as glaucoma, severe ulcerative colitis or certain other serious bowel problems associated with severe ulcerative colitis, myasthenia gravis, and Sjogren's syndrome.

Talk to your healthcare provider if you are not sure if you have a medical condition that can be made worse by taking an anticholinergic medicine.

Before using QBREXZA, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- · have prostate or bladder problems, or problems passing urine.
- have kidney problems.
- · are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if QBREXZA will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if QBREXZA passes into your breast milk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby during treatment with QBREXZA.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. QBREXZA may affect the way other medicines work, causing side effects. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take anticholinergic medicines.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines with you and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I use QBREXZA?

- Use QBREXZA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to use it.
- QBREXZA comes as a single-use pre-moistened cloth in individual pouches.
- QBREXZA should be applied to clean, dry, intact skin of your underarm areas only. Do not apply QBREXZA to broken skin. Do not cover the treated area with a plastic (occlusive) dressing.
- Apply QBREXZA to both underarm areas using 1 cloth 1 time every 24 hours.

Applying QBREXZA:

- Carefully tear open the pouch to avoid tearing the QBREXZA cloth.
- Unfold the QBREXZA cloth and apply QBREXZA by wiping across 1 entire underarm 1 time. Using the same QBREXZA cloth, wipe across the other underarm 1 time.
- . Throw away (discard) the used QBREXZA cloth in the trash.
- Wash your hands right away after you apply QBREXZA and have thrown away the cloth. It is important that you wash your hands because QBREXZA that is still on your hands can cause you to have blurred vision if you touch your eyes.
- . Do not reuse the QBREXZA cloth.

What should I avoid while using QBREXZA?

- QBREXZA may cause you to have blurred vision that is temporary. If you develop blurred vision, call your healthcare provider, stop using QBREXZA and do not drive, operate machinery, or do hazardous work until your vision is clear.
- QBREXZA is flammable. Avoid heat and flame while applying QBREXZA to your skin.

What are the possible side effects of QBREXZA?

QBREXZA can cause serious side effects, including:

- New or worsened urinary retention. People who use QBREXZA may develop new or worse urinary retention. Urinary retention can be caused by a blockage in your bladder. Urinary retention can also happen in men who have a larger than normal prostate. Symptoms of urinary retention may include:
 - difficulty urinating
 - urinating frequently
 - · urination in a weak stream or drips
 - full bladder or difficulty emptying your bladder (distended bladder)

If you have these symptoms, stop using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider right away.

- Problems with control of your body temperature. QBREXZA can cause you to have decreased sweating in areas other than the underarm area which could cause you to become overheated and to
 develop heat illness. When in hot or very warm temperatures, watch for lack of sweating on your body (generalized) and stop using QBREXZA if you develop lack of sweating on your body.
 Stop using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of these symptoms of heat illness:
 - hot, red skin
 - decreased alertness or passing out (unconsciousness)
 - fast, weak pulse
 - fast, shallow breathing
 - · increased body temperature (fever)
- Blurred vision. If you develop blurred vision during treatment with QBREXZA, call your healthcare provider, stop using QBREXZA and do not drive, or operate machinery, or do hazardous work until your vision is clear.

The most common side effects of QBREXZA include:

- · dry mouth
- dilation of the pupils of your eyes (mydriasis)
- · sore throat

- skin redness, burning/stinging or itching in underarm area
- headache
- · problems with urination

- blurred vision
- · nasal dryness
- throat, eye, and skin dryness
- constipation

These are not all of the possible side effects of QBREXZA.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

Keep QBREXZA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the safe and effective use of QBREXZA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use QBREXZA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give QBREXZA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about QBREXZA that is written for health professionals.

Manufactured for: Dermira, Inc. Menlo Park, California 94025

This information is not comprehensive. For more information, talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist, and go to www.Qbrexza.com or call 1-877-DERMIRA.





Stan Wawrinka (left), US Open champion in 2016, and Marin Cilic (above), who won the US Open in 2014, are among the few men who have been able to snatch major titles from the Big Three across the last 15 seasons.

unable to dial in, he said, because of severe limitations on his practice time. Nadal ought to have that extra thing at the US Open. Underrate him at your peril.

The Big Three have been utterly dominant at the four majors. They've now won 11 consecutive Grand Slam tournament crowns. As streaks go, that's just tied for second place on their collective résumé, well behind the 18-title streak that began at Roland Garros in 2005. Process that and you can see why the word "contender" has to be applied judiciously to the rest of the field. Frankly, the fall off below the Big Three is dramatic.

Only one man has ever beaten Djokovic and Nadal back-to-back at the same Grand Slam event, and his name isn't Federer or even Andy Murray, who for a time was a pillar in a mythic Big Four. (Murray is still recuperating from a hip resurfacing surgery and won't be playing singles in Flushing Meadows.) The feat belongs to 2016 US Open champion Stan Wawrinka, who clouted the two icons to win his first major title at the Australian Open in 2014.

Wawrinka, from Switzerland, burst out of his role as Federer's wingman to become a three-time Grand Slam tournament champion and omnipresent threat to his fellow elites on every surface but grass. But he was unable to defend his US Open title in 2017, when a knee injury forced him to pull the plug on his season after an early loss at Wimbledon. A premature return early in 2018 resulted in more pain, losses and another protracted layoff. Wawrinka came to the US Open in the 16th

month of a slow but steady ascent. He's 34, but there's nothing like returning to a place where you've hit it big. And Wawrinka hits it big in every sense of the expression.

Dominic Thiem's disinterest in grass court tennis tends to push him under the radar after the French Open. But beware; Thiem, a two-time Roland Garros finalist, conquered Federer on hard courts to win Indian Wells this past March. Last year, Thiem lost to Nadal in the US Open quarterfinals in what probably was the best, most electric match of the entire tournament—and one of the top two or three highlights of the year. It was 2:04 a.m. when Nadal finally left Arthur Ashe Stadium court—in stocking feet, his dogs were so tender—after having barely survived the four-hour, 49-minute epic by the convoluted score of 0-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-7(4), 7-6(5).

Kevin Anderson, the losing finalist in the 2017 US Open and 2018 Wimbledon, has tasted bitter fruit lately. Along with John Isner, he was the catalyst for Wimbledon's adoption of the final-set tiebreaker at 12-all, which in turn produced this year's thrilling final. But the physical toll exacted by his five-set, 26-24 in the fifth, triumph over Isner last year not only left Anderson with an empty tank for the final, but probably contributed to the breakdown of his right elbow. Anderson left the tour in late March to heal and didn't return until June. He looked and played rusty during the grass segment, going 3-2 on turf.

"Obviously a tough grass season," Anderson admitted, after winning just two matches at Wimbledon this year. "But (there were) definitely







(Clockwise from left) Stefanos Tsitsipas, Alexander Zverev and Dominic Thiem, among players younger than 30, are regarded as most likely to end the Big Three hegemony at the majors and begin collecting their own Grand Slam titles.

some positives. Being able to play two tournaments, getting in a few more matches. Hopefully I'll be able to keep progressing."

Isner paid a lesser price for being woven into Wimbledon history for a second time. (Remember his 11-hour, 70-68 in the fifth marathon in 2010?) He went on last year to equal his career-best US Open result by reaching the quarterfinals, where he lost a tough four-setter to del Potro.

Isner remains the best hope for American men's tennis. Now 34, he suffered a stress fracture in his left foot during the Miami Open final and played no tennis until Wimbledon, where he was a second-round loser. The upside for Isner is that he's well rested and has a history of accumulating confidence and match toughness during the US Open Series, before arriving in New York for the big show.

Among the U.S. contingent, Sam Querrey pops out as the next biggest threat to the status quo. Healthy again, Querrey is a low-key guy who, like Isner, carries a big whupping stick in the form of his serve. He rode the shot all the way to the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the third time in four years, his run halted by Nadal.

Reilly Opelka, 6-foot-11 and 21 years old, is cut from the same cloth as Querrey: monster serve, combined with soft hands and surprisingly good movement for a big man. Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe, both 21, are dangerous, but probably a year or two from contending.

Fritz and Tiafoe have long been part of the heavily hyped Next Gen

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ATP campaign, featuring players age 21 and under. The initiative was launched in 2017 to identify the successors to tennis's Big Four. It's a varied, growing fleet because a number of solid pros have already aged out of the group. Stefanos Tsitsipas, a mercurial 21-year-old from Greece, has emerged to challenge German wunderkind Alexander Zverev, 22, for leadership among the younger players.

Zverev shot up into the Top 5 with dazzling speed, skipping the eight-man Next Gen ATP Finals in 2017 because he qualified for the main ATP Tour Finals. But he has since stalled. This year, he has been mired in distracting legal woes having to do with career management, but he has almost always underperformed at the majors. His record at Flushing Meadows is a disappointing 6-4.

Tsitsipas, meanwhile, fired a shot heard round the tennis world when he upset Federer and Roberto Bautista Agut in back-to-back matches to reach the Australian Open semis this year. Tsitsipas, among the tour's title leaders with two heading into the French Open, took a heartbreaking, five-set loss to Wawrinka in the fourth round at Roland Garros. Then, he was upset by Thomas Fabbiano in the first round at

Wimbledon, a loss that brought the passionate, emotional young man to the verge of tears. "I am disappointed now," Tsitsipas said afterward. "People expected things from me. I didn't deliver. When you get so much support, so much energy, so much positivity from everyone, just ruin everything by yourself, it's devastating."

Taking the loss so hard, so personally, is a good omen for Tsitsipas. He's ambitious, conscientious, uncowed by the Big Three (or anyone else), and he relishes the big stage.

Two Russians who have aged out of the Next Gen ranks and tasted Top 10 status also count as contenders. Daniil Medvedev, 23, was the tour leader in match wins, through his runner-up finish at Barcelona in April. His flat strokes and baseline consistency are legitimate weapons. Karen Khachanov, also 23, has an oversized game anchored in a big serve.

The emphasis on the high-flying Next Gen youth makes it easy to overlook some additional veteran contenders. Bautista Agut (aka, RBA) has become one of the toughest outs in the game, as he showed earlier this summer by advancing to the semis at Wimbledon. Oft-injured



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(Clockwise from left) Borna Coric, Daniil Medvedev, Karen Khachanov and Felix Auger-Aliassime are all age 23 or younger, and have advanced to at least two ATP Tour finals during the last two seasons.



Milos Raonic, a Wimbledon finalist in 2016, is healthy again. Smooth David Goffin is playing well again. Fabio Fognini is emerging as a serious threat, while leading an Italian renaissance.

Five years ago, Marin Cilic upended Kei Nishikori to win the 2014 US Open title. It was the first major championship final in nine years—38 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments—not to feature at least one of the Big Three. It appeared that, perhaps, the "Fedalovic" dam had finally ruptured. But that was premature; the Big Three went right back to work, allowing only Murray and Raonic at 2016 Wimbledon the spotlight without them.

Cilic has remained the more threatening contender. He has lost to Federer in two major finals since earning the US Open crown, but he got bogged down after leading Croatia to last year's Davis Cup championship and stumbled out of the Top 10 this summer. A Wimbledon finalist in 2017, he lost this year in the second round to Joao Sousa, a player better known for his clay court game.

Nishikori, a staple in the mid-level of the Top 10, has shown admirable consistency and punches well above his weight class—most of the time. But the 5-foot-10 dynamo has never shown the ability to stretch his talent beyond its usual breaking point on critical, big occasions, which is what it would take for a defender and counterpuncher of his ilk to get past a blooded Grand Slam champ.

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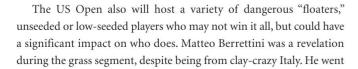
















(Clockwise from above left) John Isner, Sam Querrey, Frances Tiafoe and Taylor Fritz lead a U.S. contingent intent on winning majors.

12-1 on grass before Federer stopped him at Wimbledon. Spain's Fernando Verdasco, 35, has been consistently hitting a big ball in the twilight of his career. Next Gen staple Denis Shapovalov has been spinning his wheels, but his southpaw juju plays well on the US Open's hard courts, and his fellow Canadian, good buddy Felix Auger-Aliassime, is just 19 and coming on...fast.

In theory, the Big Three ought to be smelling the roses and reveling in the riches and accolades they have earned. In reality, their motivations appear to be spiking and the potential rewards driving them higher.

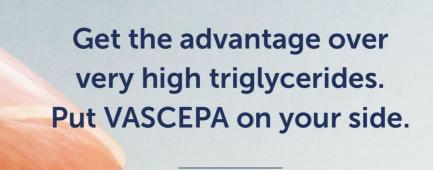
People have been expecting a changing of the guard for quite some time now, but as Djokovic said at Wimbledon: "There is time. I understand that people want to see a new winner of a Grand Slam (tournament). They don't want to see the three of us dominating the [major] titles. Eventually it's going to come, in about 25 years, then we'll all be happy."

He was joking. We think.





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WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF VASCEPA?

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*Vascepa 1-gram capsules contain 1 gram of icosapent ethyl, a form of the unique Omega-3 fatty acid known as EPA, and inactive ingredients.

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It is not known if VASCEPA prevents you from having a heart attack or stroke.

It is not known if VASCEPA is safe and effective in children.

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- · have a liver problem.
- have a pancreas problem.
- are allergic to fish or shellfish. It is not known if people who are allergic to fish or shellfish are also allergic to VASCEPA.
- are pregnant, or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if VASCEPA will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. VASCEPA can pass into your milk, and may harm your baby. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby if you take VASCEPA.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and dietary or herbal supplements.

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How should I take VASCEPA?

- Take VASCEPA exactly as your doctor tells you to take it.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking VASCEPA without talking to your doctor.
- Do not take more capsules than what is prescribed by your doctor.
 - If you are prescribed the 0.5-gram capsules, you should not take more than 8 capsules each day.
 - If you are prescribed the 1-gram capsules, you should not take more than 4 capsules per day.
- Take VASCEPA capsules whole. Do not break, crush, dissolve, or chew VASCEPA capsules before swallowing.
- If you miss a dose of VASCEPA, take it as soon as you remember.
 However, if you miss one day of VASCEPA, do not double your dose when you take it.

- Your doctor may start you on a diet that is low in saturated fat, cholesterol, carbohydrates, and low in added sugars before giving you VASCEPA. Stay on this diet while taking VASCEPA.
- Your doctor may do blood tests to check your triglyceride and other lipid levels while you take VASCEPA.

What are the possible side effects of VASCEPA?

If you have liver problems and are taking VASCEPA, your doctor should do blood tests during treatment.

The most common side effect of VASCEPA is joint pain. As with all drugs, you may experience a serious side effect when taking VASCEPA. Talk to your doctor if you have a side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of VASCEPA.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store VASCEPA?

- Store VASCEPA at room temperature between 68° to 77° F (20° to 25° C).
- Safely throw away medicine that is out of date or no longer needed.

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Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in Patient Information Leaflets. Do not use VASCEPA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give VASCEPA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about VASCEPA that is written for health professionals.

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MEN'S RANKINGS

ATP TOUR

RANK	PLAYER	RANK	PLAYER
1.	Novak Djokovic (SRB)	51.	Filip Krajinovic (SRB)
2.	Rafael Nadal (ESP)	52.	Albert Ramos-Viñolas (ESP)
3.	Roger Federer (SUI)	53.	Daniel Evans (GBR)
4.	Dominic Thiem (AUT)	54.	Grigor Dimitrov (BUL)
5.	Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	55.	Marton Fucsovics (HUN)
6.	Kei Nishikori (JPN)	56.	Casper Ruud (NOR)
7.	Alexander Zverev (GER)	57.	Juan Ignacio Londero (ARG)
8.	Karen Khachanov (RUS)	58.	Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB)
9.	Daniil Medvedev (RUS)	59.	Ugo Humbert (FRA)
10.	Kevin Anderson (RSA)	60.	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA)
11.	Fabio Fognini (ITA)	61.	Marco Cecchinato (ITA)
12.	Juan Martin del Potro (ARG)	62.	Cameron Norrie (GBR)
13.	Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP)	63.	Federico Delbonis (ARG)
14.	Borna Coric (CRO)	64.	Nicolas Jarry (CHI)
15.	John Isner (USA)	65.	John Millman (AUS)
16.	Marin Cilic (CRO)	66.	Richard Gasquet (FRA)
17.	Nikoloz Basilashvili (GEO)	67.	Feliciano Lopez (ESP)
18.	David Goffin (BEL)	68.	Pablo Andujar (ESP)
19.	Milos Raonic (CAN)	69.	Adrian Mannarino (FRA)
20.	Gael Monfils (FRA)	70.	Andrey Rublev (RUS)
21.	Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)	71.	Alexander Bublik (KAZ)
22.	Stan Wawrinka (SUI)	72.	Tennys Sandgren (USA)
23.	Diego Schwartzman (ARG)	73.	Philipp Kohlschreiber (GER)
24.	Guido Pella (ARG)	74.	Jeremy Chardy (FRA)
25.	Taylor Fritz (USA)	75.	Roberto Carballes Baena (ESP)
26.	Matteo Berrettini (ITA)	76.	Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN)
27.	Nick Kyrgios (AUS)	77.	Ricardas Berankis (LTU)
28.	Dusan Lajovic (SRB)	78.	Andreas Seppi (ITA)
29.	Benoit Paire (FRA)	79.	Stefano Travaglia (ITA)
30.	Lucas Pouille (FRA)	80.	Martin Klizan (SVK)
31.	Fernando Verdasco (ESP)	81.	Ivo Karlovic (CRO)
32.	Denis Shapovalov (CAN)	82.	Leonardo Mayer (ARG)
33.	Kyle Edmund (GBR)	83.	Corentin Moutet (FRA)
34.	Gilles Simon (FRA)	84.	Thomas Fabbiano (ITA)
35.	Jan-Lennard Struff (GER)	85.	Peter Gojowczyk (GER)
36.	Cristian Garin (CHI)	86.	Robin Haase (NED)
37.	Laslo Djere (SRB)	87.	Alexei Popyrin (AUS)
38.	Alex de Minaur (AUS)	88.	Marius Copil (ROU)
39.	Radu Albot (MDA)	89.	Hugo Dellien (BOL)
40.	Pierre-Hugues Herbert (FRA)	90.	Prajnesh Gunneswaran (IND)
41.	Sam Querrey (USA)	91.	Aljaz Bedene (SLO)
42.	Frances Tiafoe (USA)	92.	Bradley Klahn (USA)
43.	Reilly Opelka (USA)	93.	Steve Johnson (USA)
44.	Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZ)	94.	Lloyd Harris (RSA)
45.	Joao Sousa (POR)	95.	Bernard Tomic (AUS)
46.	Jordan Thompson (AUS)	96.	Mackenzie McDonald (USA)
47.	Lorenzo Sonego (ITA)	97.	Soonwoo Kwon (KOR)
48.	Hubert Hurkacz (POL)	98.	Brayden Schnur (CAN)
49.	Pablo Cuevas (URU)	99.	Marcel Granollers (ESP)
50.	Pablo Carreño Busta (ESP)	100.	Kamil Majchrzak (POL)

AMERICAN PLAYERS IN THE TOP 200



RANK	PLAYER	RANK	PLAYER
15.	John Isner	121.	Bjorn Fratangelo
25.	Taylor Fritz	128.	Tommy Paul
41.	Sam Querrey	157.	Marcos Giron
42.	Frances Tiafoe	176.	Jack Sock
43.	Reilly Opelka	179.	Christopher Eubanks
72.	Tennys Sandgren	181.	Mitchell Krueger
92.	Bradley Klahn	182.	Michael Mmoh
93.	Steve Johnson	198.	Ryan Harrison
96.	Mackenzie McDonald	200.	Noah Rubin
114	Denis Kudla		

DOUBLES RANKINGS

RANK	PLAYER	RANK	PLAYER
T1.	Juan Sebastian Cabal (COL)	26.	Joe Salisbury (GBR)
T1.	Robert Farah (COL)	27.	Franko Skugor (CRO)
3.	Mike Bryan (USA)	28.	Maximo Gonzalez (ARG)
4.	Lukasz Kubot (POL)	29.	Ivan Dodig (CRO)
5.	Marcelo Melo (BRA)	30.	Fabrice Martin (FRA)
6.	Nicolas Mahut (FRA)	31.	Bob Bryan (USA)
7.	Raven Klaasen (RSA)	32.	Jeremy Chardy (FRA)
8.	Michael Venus (NZL)	33.	Robin Haase (NED)
9.	Nikola Mektic (CRO)	34.	Jurgen Melzer (AUT)
10.	Bruno Soares (BRA)	35.	Marcel Granollers (ESP)
11.	Horia Tecau (ROU)	36.	Austin Krajicek (USA)
12.	Jean-Julien Rojer (NED)	37.	Neal Skupski (GBR)
13.	Jamie Murray (GBR)	38.	Filip Polasek (SVK)
14.	Henri Kontinen (FIN)	39.	Dominic Inglot (GBR)
15.	John Peers (AUS)	40.	Ben McLachlan (JPN)
16.	Jack Sock (USA)	41.	Joran Vliegen (BEL)
17.	Oliver Marach (AUT)	42.	Joao Sousa (POR)
18.	Mate Pavic (CRO)	43.	Marcus Daniell (NZL)
19.	Horacio Zeballos (ARG)	44.	Diego Schwartzman (ARG)
20.	Rajeev Ram (USA)	45.	Philipp Oswald (AUT)
21.	Pierre-Hugues Herbert (FRA)	46.	Rohan Bopanna (IND)
22.	Edouard Roger-Vasselin (FRA)	47.	Divij Sharan (IND)
23.	Wesley Koolhof (NED)	48.	Sander Gille (BEL)
24.	Kevin Krawietz (GER)	49.	Marcelo Demoliner (BRA)
25.	Andreas Mies (GER)	50.	Frederik Nielsen (DEN)



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ANEWDAY

A wide open field for the US Open—and women's tennis in general—means it's anbody's game, which is just perfect!

BY STEPHEN TIGNOR

hat will a WTA future without Serena Williams look like? It's a question that has been asked about the women's tour for more than a decade, and for some observers, it has come with an ominous subtext. Without a dominant player at the top of the rankings, will the WTA fragment into a chaotic free-for-all, with a different winner crowned each week?

In spring 2017, when Williams announced that she was pregnant and planning to take the rest of the season off, that uncertain future appeared to have arrived. She vowed to come back, but the chances that she would simply pick up where she left off seemed slim. There was no precedent for a 36- or 37-year-old mother winning major titles.

With Williams's absence came the expected turmoil at the top, and it didn't stop when she returned to the game in 2018. In the 10 Grand Slam tournaments that have been played since Williams's pregnancy announcement, all the way up to this US Open, eight different players—Jelena Ostapenko, Garbiñe Muguruza, Sloane Stephens, Caroline Wozniacki, Simona Halep, Angelique Kerber, Naomi Osaka and Ashleigh Barty—have hoisted the champion's trophies. During that same period, the No. 1 ranking has been batted around like a hot potato among Kerber, Karolina Pliskova, Muguruza, Halep, Wozniacki, Osaka and Barty. The tour's parity has become more pronounced this season; the first 18 WTA tournaments of 2019 featured 18 different winners.

All of this frenzied jockeying for position has been predictable. What has been surprising is the reaction to it.

People love it!

Instead of bemoaning the WTA's "chaos," many of the sport's fans, commentators and players have spoken glowingly about the tour's newfound depth, its compelling assortment of personalities and playing styles, its abundance of stories. In the eyes of many, the lack of a unifying star has allowed the sport's previously under-appreciated diversity of talent to shine through.

"We've had eras where there have been great rivalries, and eras where there has been a dominating player—Serena—and it's kind of refreshing to see this era where everybody is fighting for the No. 1 spot," said Chris Evert, who, with Martina Navratilova, formed a rivalry that riveted fans for two decades.

"I like it," Evert continued. "I like the way it is because I think the women are getting better and better



Defending champion Naomi Osaka followed up her US Open title with this year's Australian Open crown, the sixth U.S.-Aussie double this century.

with the competition now, when they're fighting each other. So I'm quite excited and quite intrigued, just like a fan."

Just as important, over the last two years, the WTA has been defined by success rather than failure. Gone are the days of the "Slamless No. 1s," when players like Dinara Safina and Jelena Jankovic couldn't back up their top rankings with major championships. Gone are the days when surprise Grand Slam tournament winners, such as Marion Bartoli and Flavia Pennetta, shocked the world and then promptly hung up their racquets. Gone are the days when Serena Williams could come back after an extended layoff and expect to dominate right away.

Instead, in the last 24 months, we've seen Halep and Wozniacki make their Grand Slam breakthroughs after years of near misses. We've seen Osaka face down Williams in the US Open final and back up that win with a championship at the Australian Open. We've seen the rise of Barty, a throwback Australian with an eye-catching all-court game. We've seen the return of fan favorite Petra Kvitova to top form after she survived a knife attack in her home. We've seen sisters Serena and Venus Williams continue to challenge for titles more than two decades after making their debuts. And we've seen a handful of fresh-faced teens, namely Amanda Anisimova, Bianca Andreescu, Marketa Vondrousova and Cori "Coco" Gauff, take the game by storm.

The sport's young hopefuls are pushing their way onto the stage, even as its veterans refuse to cede it.

"It's a cycle sport," explained Christopher Clarey, who has covered the WTA for *The New* York Times since the early 1990s. "Any cycle that goes on too long will lose us, but this wide-open cycle is still humming. A big part of its charm is the multi-generational effect. Right now, you have three generations bouncing off each other, with the outcomes so uncertain."

Will the US Open extend this wide-open cycle for another season, or will one of the tour's top players put her stamp on 2019 with a win at the year's final major?

This season's Grand Slam tournaments have crowned three different champions: Osaka, Barty and Halep. All three love hard courts, and all three began the US Open on the shortlist of contenders. If one of them wins, she'll be the leading candidate for the WTA's Player of the Year award.

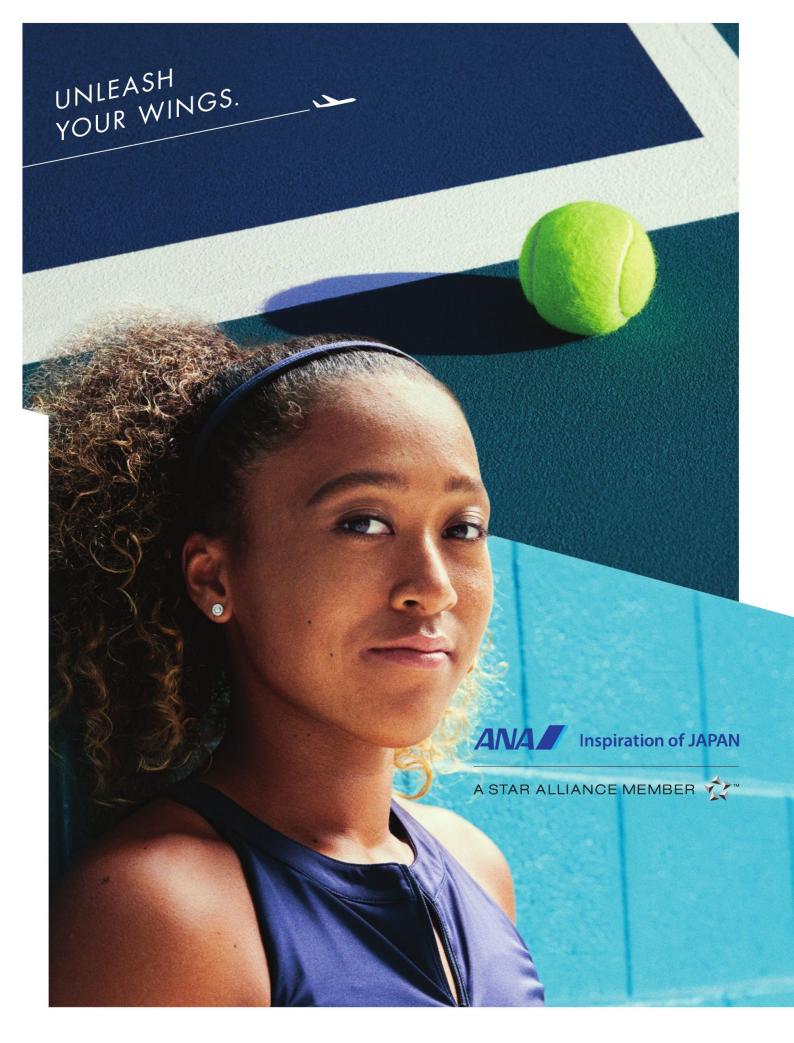
Halep, the tour's 2018 Player of the Year, is Topic A in any US Open conversation, based simply on her performance this summer at Wimbledon. "I played the best match of my life," the 27-year-old Romanian said after stunning Serena, 6-2, 6-2, in 56 minutes in the final. It was Halep's second major title, finding company with her 2018 Roland Garros crown, but it felt like she had relaunched her career.

"I'm a different person," Halep said during her Wimbledon run. "Everything changed."

What changed initially was her feeling toward grass. For the first time, Halep felt stable while moving on it. That newfound confidence quickly traveled upward, from her feet to her strokes to her mind. By the time she reached the semifinals and final, this famously volatile player was competing with a steady intensity and controlled aggression that no one had ever seen from her before. Halep said she was feeling "chill," but it was another "c-h" word that came to mind during her triumphant fortnight: "channeled."

"I always play well when I have emotions," Halep said when describing her new mental approach. "I don't try to ignore them, or I don't fight against them. I try to take them as a positive and just try to put them in the right way. That's why I was able to [play] the best match."

Has Halep turned a corner for good? There will be matches when the sailing won't be as smooth, and her old volatility will likely return.







Ashleigh Barty (above) claimed her first major championship singles crown this year at Roland Garros, while Simona Halep (left), the 2018 French Open winner, took the title this year at Wimbledon.

But at Wimbledon, she sounded eager for the remainder of the season to unfold.

"I feel I'm at the highest level, for sure, but I'm feeling also that I can improve some things," said Halep, who has thrived on U.S. hard courts in the past, capturing a title at New Haven in her breakout 2013 season, advancing to the final in Cincinnati three of the past four years and reaching the semifinals at the US Open in 2015. "I'm still motivated. I'm looking forward already to the next tournaments and next challenges that I have."

Halep's ability to conquer grass seems to have boosted her belief level everywhere else—as well it should, according to ESPN analyst Mary Joe Fernandez.

"The most impressive thing isn't the work she has put in on the court," Fernandez said at Wimbledon, "it's the work she has put in off the court, mentally. She gets upset, but she bounces back faster. Her game translates to every surface, not just the clay. We saw her win on grass; she can definitely win on hard courts."

Something similar might be said of Barty, who, like Halep, claimed a Grand Slam tournament singles crown this year on her weakest surface, clay, at Roland Garros. The 23-year-old Australian's rise in 2019 has been meteoric. She began the year at No. 15; three weeks after the French Open, she was No. 1. Along the way, she has shown off her mastery of every shot—flat serve, kick serve, two-handed drive backhand, one-handed slice backhand, textbook volleys and deft drop shots—and tied them together in a playing style that, at its best, looks effortlessly effective.

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Angelique Kerber (left) had already won the Australian Open and was runner-up at Wimbledon before taking the 2016 US Open crown. Meanwhile, Sloane Stephens (above), in 2017, was the lowest-ranked US Open champion in history, although Kim Clijsters was unranked when she claimed the 2009 title.

Barty's game also is effective across a variety of surfaces. This year, she has captured titles on hard courts in Miami, clay in Paris and grass in Birmingham. She also has tasted victory at the US Open before. Last year, Barty teamed with CoCo Vandeweghe to win women's doubles.

Barty credits her coaching team for helping her fulfill her obvious potential. "We put in a helluva lot of work," she likes to say. While she has always been versatile, she's taken matters into her own hands in 2019, getting stronger, improving her serve and gaining the confidence to impose her game on her opponents.

"We talk about Ash's slice backhand, how good she is at breaking up her opponent's rhythm," fellow Australian Todd Woodbridge said this summer. "But she has actually hit the topspin backhand more this year; the numbers have changed."

Barty has the game to go far at Flushing Meadows, but does she have the personality? She's low-key and unassuming, words that don't typically come to mind when thinking of the US Open—particularly a New York night crowd. Barty's record in the Big Apple is just 6-4, and her fourth-round appearance last year was a career-best. If she's looking for advice on how to go further and how to project her best tennis in

23,000-seat Arthur Ashe Stadium, Barty may want to talk to last year's champion, the equally unassuming Osaka.

Curiously, while Barty's and Halep's fortunes have been rising, Osaka's season has been trending in the opposite direction. Soon after winning the Australian Open, the 21-year-old fired the coach (Sascha Bajin) who had guided her to the No. 1 ranking—and won the inaugural WTA Coach of the Year award in so doing. Since then, Osaka has reached just one semifinal, withdrawn from two tournaments, and gone 2-2 at Roland Garros and Wimbledon.

"I feel like there has been a weight on me," Osaka said after her thirdround loss in Paris. "And I know that's because everything is, like, sort of new. I have played the French Open before, but not in this circumstance."

The weight still hadn't lifted at Wimbledon, where Osaka lost in the first round and cut her press conference short because she said she felt like she was going to cry.

"The key for me was just, like, having fun, learning how to have fun and take pressure of myself," Osaka said, when asked what had changed for her at the majors. "I hope I can somehow find a way to do that."

Getting back on her favorite surface should help. All three of Osaka's

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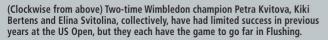


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career titles—Indian Wells and the US Open in 2018, the Australian Open in 2019—have come on hard courts. And getting back to the site of her Grand Slam tournament breakthrough, Arthur Ashe Stadium, shouldn't hurt, either. In beating Serena in last year's Open final, Osaka showed that she had a knack, in her own self-contained way, for taking over a stage and rising to an occasion.

"You never know how someone is going to play in the biggest match of her life," Lindsay Davenport said, while looking back at the Osaka-Serena final. "Will they freeze? Will they go wide-eyed? Osaka had this subtle, focused look up to her box, and she gave them these little fist pumps. She was into it, but she wasn't overdoing it. I don't think you forget how to handle those moments."

This year's US Open marks the 20th anniversary of Serena Williams's own first major singles championship, when she beat then-No. 1 Martina Hingis as a 17-year-old. More recently, though, Serena hasn't responded well to title-match pressure. Since returning to the tour in 2018, she's 0-3 in major finals—and 0-6 in sets. At Wimbledon this year, nerves seemed





100 2019 US OPEN

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AMERICA'S CHOICE









(Clockwise from above) Caroline Wozniacki, Karolina Pliskova and Madison Keys have each been finalists at the US Open. Wozniacki, after two US Open finals appearances, claimed her first major last year at the Australian Open.

to freeze Serena's feet to the grass in the early going, and she struggled just to get the ball over the net. After $11~{\rm minutes}$, she was down 0-4 to Halep.

"I just have to figure out a way to win a final," Serena said afterward. "Maybe playing other finals outside of Grand Slams would be really helpful, just to kind of get in the groove so by the time I get to a Grand Slam final, I'm kind of used to what to do and how to play."

Serena, who will turn 38 on Sept. 26, has said that her 2019 season has been "grueling," filled with nagging injuries and ill-timed illnesses. Two and a half years after winning her 23rd major, she remains one behind Margaret Court's all-time record. Can this most determined and confident of champions really let herself come up one shy?

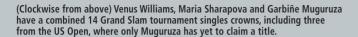
"I just think that I have to keep going, keep trying, keep working," Serena said at Wimbledon. "Maybe be able to play some tournaments uninjured, like I did with this one. Just keep moving forward."

If the WTA has taught us anything over the last two years, though, it's that the winner of the last tournament will probably not win the next tournament. Virtually no one picked Barty to go all the way at Roland Garros, or Halep to breeze through Wimbledon. Who

USOpen.org







might pull off a similar surprise at the US Open? There are a number of tantalizing, if flawed, possibilities.

Pliskova has already reached a US Open final, in 2016, and her ball-striking skills are nonpareil. But her low-margin game makes it hard for her to put seven consecutive clean matches together.

Kiki Bertens is due for a big result at a major, but is the US Open a little too big for her retiring personality?

Kvitova has been a consistent performer over the last two years, but it took her eight attempts to get to the quarterfinals at the Open, more than twice as many as she needed at any other major, and it remains the lone Grand Slam tournament where she has never reached the semifinals.

Elina Svitolina loves hard courts, but so far her talent has had a ceiling. She just reached her first Grand Slam tournament semi this year at Wimbledon

Kerber won the US Open and the Australian Open in 2016, plus Wimbledon last year, but her reactive game leaves her vulnerable to any hot-hitting opponent. To wit, 95th-ranked Lauren Davis was that opponent this year at Wimbledon, sending Kerber out in the second round.

Which brings us back home. This year's US Open should serve as a showcase for a particularly strong U.S. women's contingent that will

vs Brunskil/Galy Prages.



play alongside the Williams sisters. As a group, they've made big strides at the majors this season and seen their rankings rise accordingly. Davis, for example, jumped 24 spots to No. 71 after Wimbledon.

Since winning at Flushing Meadows in 2017, Sloane Stephens has established herself as a Top 10 player and a steady Grand Slam tournament threat. Madison Keys has reached the final and the semis at the Open the last two years, and is near the top of the list of "Best Players Who Haven't Won a Major."

Former US Open girls' singles champion Amanda Anisimova, whose



far beyond ordinary



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America's unexpected stars this year have included (counterclockwise from bottom right) Danielle Collins, a semifinalist at the Australian Open; Amanda Anisimova, a semifinalist at Roland Garros; Sofia Kenin, who upset Serena Williams to reach the French Open fourth round; and Alison Riske, a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon.

18th birthday coincides with Day 6 of the Open, advanced to the semifinals of this year's French Open, while Sofia Kenin, 20, beat Serena at Roland Garros and began the US Open Series with two singles crowns already this season.

Danielle Collins made the semifinals at the Australian Open and cracked the Top 30. Perhaps the most overlooked surge was 29-year-old Alison Riske's trip to her first Grand Slam quarterfinal, at the major where she has had the most success throughout her career, Wimbledon. She won four straight three-set matches and provided some of the most exciting, hard-fought tennis of the fortnight, all on the heels of claiming the second WTA singles title of her career.

Finally, there's the new darling of the lawns, 15-year-old Coco Gauff.

Will she be as big a smash at Flushing Meadows as she was at Wimbledon? She has already made history here, registering as the youngest finalist in junior championships annals when she played Anisimova for the girls' singles title in 2017.

As the names above attest, this is a diverse and compelling cast of players, and a fitting tribute to what the Williams sisters have helped inspire in U.S. tennis since they made their own breakthroughs at the US Open two decades ago.

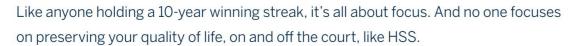
The WTA hasn't come to the end of the Serena era yet. Across the last two years, we've been given a glimpse of what might come next. And it seems safe to say that fans of the women's game have nothing to fear.

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WOMEN'S RANKINGS

WTA

RANK	PLAYER	RANK	PLAYER
1.	Ashleigh Barty (AUS)	51.	Wang Yafan (CHN)
2.	Naomi Osaka (JPN)	52.	Camila Giorgi (ITA)
3.	Karolina Pliskova (CZE)	53.	Alize Cornet (FRA)
4.	Simona Halep (ROU)	54.	Polona Hercog (SLO)
5.	Kiki Bertens (NED)	55.	Jessica Pegula (USA)
6.	Petra Kvitova (CZE)	56.	Venus Williams (USA)
7.	Elina Svitolina (UKR)	57.	Veronika Kudermetova (RUS)
8.	Sloane Stephens (USA)	58.	Jil Teichmann (SUI)
9.	Aryna Sabalenka (BLR)	59.	Margarita Gasparyan (RUS)
10.	Serena Williams (USA)	60.	Ons Jabeur (TUN)
11.	Anastasija Sevastova (LAT)	61.	Alison Van Uytvanck (BEL)
12.	Belinda Bencic (SUI)	62.	Tamara Zidansek (SLO)
13.	Angelique Kerber (GER)	63.	Elena Rybakina (KAZ)
14.	Johanna Konta (GBR)	64.	Bernarda Pera (USA)
15.	Marketa Vondrousova (CZE)	65.	Iga Swiatek (POL)
16.	Wang Qiang (CHN)	66.	Dominika Cibulkova (SVK)
17.	Madison Keys (USA)	67.	Lauren Davis (USA)
18.	Caroline Wozniacki (DEN)	68.	Fiona Ferro (FRA)
19.	Anett Kontaveit (EST)	69.	Viktorija Golubic (SUI)
20.	Elise Mertens (BEL)	70.	Kateryna Kozlova (UKR)
21.	Petra Martic (CRO)	71.	Rebecca Peterson (SWE)
22.	Caroline Garcia (FRA)	72.	Kaia Kanepi (EST)
23.	Amanda Anisimova (USA)	73.	Madison Brengle (USA)
24.	Donna Vekic (CRO)	74.	Tatiana Maria (GER)
25.	Julia Goerges (GER)	75.	Anastasia Potapova (RUS)
26.	Carla Suarez-Navarro (ESP)	76.	Jennifer Brady (USA)
27.	Bianca Andreescu (CAN)	77.	Magda Linette (POL)
28.	Garbiñe Muguruza (ESP)	78.	Laura Siegemund (GER)
29.	Sofia Kenin (USA)	79.	Zarina Diyas (KAZ)
30.	Hsieh Su-Wei (TPE)	80.	Pauline Parmentier (FRA)
31.	Barbora Strycova (CZE)	81.	Maria Sharapova (RUS)
32.	Maria Sakkari (GRE)	82.	Jelena Ostapenko (LAT)
33.	Dayana Yastremska (UKR)	83.	Daria Gavrilova (AUS)
34.	Lesia Tsurenko (UKR)	84.	Vera Zvonareva (RUS)
35.	Zhang Shuai (CHN)	85.	Kristyna Pliskova (CZE)
36.	Danielle Collins (USA)	86.	Timea Bacsinszky (SUI)
37.	Alison Riske (USA)	87.	Andrea Petkovic (GER)
38.	Zheng Saisai (CHN)	88.	Misaki Doi (JPN)
39.	Victoria Azarenka (BLR)	89.	Ivana Jorovic (SRB)
40.	Daria Kasatkina (RUS)	90.	Paula Badosa (ESP)
41.	Katerina Siniakova (CZE)	91.	Marie Bouzkova (CZE)
42.	Yulia Putintseva (KAZ)	92.	Irina-Camelia Begu (ROU)
43.	Monica Puig (PUR)	93.	Anna Blinkova (RUS)
44.	Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)	94.	Sorana Cirstea (ROU)
45.	Ajla Tomljanovic (AUS)	95.	Anna Karolina Schmiedlova (SVK)
46.	Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR)	96.	Sara Sorribes Tormo (ESP)
47.	Karolina Muchova (CZE)	97.	Beatriz Haddad Maia (BRA)
48.	Ekaterina Alexandrova (RUS)	98.	Natalia Vikhlyantseva (RUS)
49.	Viktoria Kuzmova (SVK)	99.	Alexandra Krunic (SRB)
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100. Astra Sharma (AUS)

AMERICAN PLAYERS IN THE TOP 200



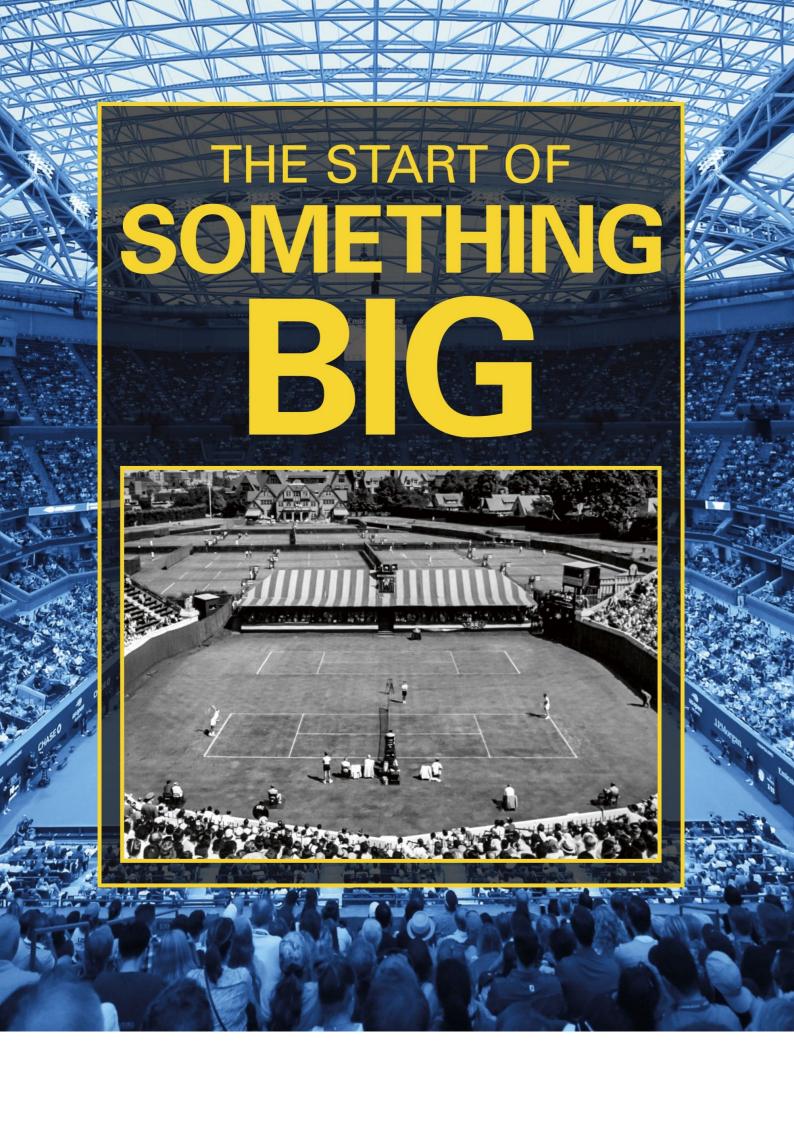
RANK	PLAYER	RANK	PLAYER
8.	Sloane Stephens	106.	Whitney Osuigwe
10.	Serena Williams	115.	Varvara Lepchenko
17.	Madison Keys	117.	Taylor Townsend
23.	Amanda Anisimova	124.	Caty McNally
29.	Sofia Kenin	137.	Nicole Gibbs
36.	Danielle Collins	138.	Kristie Ahn
37.	Alison Riske	142.	Coco Gauff
56.	Venus Williams	149.	Sachia Vickery
64.	Bernarda Pera	150.	Allie Kiick
67.	Lauren Davis	152.	Francesca Di Lorenzo
73.	Madison Brengle	159.	Robin Anderson
76.	Jennifer Brady	171.	Ann Li
55.	Jessica Pegula	175.	Danielle Lao
103.	Christina McHale	187.	Usue Arconada

DOUBLES RANKINGS

RANK	PLAYER	RANK	PLAYER
1.	Barbora Strycova (CZE)	26.	Johanna Larsson (SWE)
2.	Kristina Mladenovic (FRA)	27.	Andreja Klepac (SLO)
3.	Timea Babos (HUN)	28.	MJ Martinez Sanchez (ESP)
4.	Elise Mertens (BEL)	29.	Zheng Saisai (CHN)
5.	Hsieh Su-Wei (TPE)	30.	Victoria Azarenka (BLR)
6.	Ashleigh Barty (AUS)	31.	Jelena Ostapenko (LAT)
7.	Demi Schuurs (NED)	32.	Shuko Aoyama (JPN)
8.	Katerina Siniakova (CZE)	33.	Alicja Rosolska (POL)
9.	Zhang Shuai (CHN)	34.	Veronika Kudermetova (RUS)
T10.	Gabriela Dabrowski (CAN)	35.	Raluca Olaru (ROU)
T10.	Xu Yi-Fan (CHN)	36.	Raquel Atawo (USA)
12.	Barbora Krejcikova (CZE)	37.	Asia Muhammad (USA)
13.	Samantha Stosur (AUS)	38.	Desirae Krawczyk (USA)
14.	Latisha Chan (TPE)	39.	Darija Jurak (CRO)
15.	Aryna Sabalenka (BLR)	40.	Galina Voskoboeva (KAZ)
16.	Chan Hao-Ching (TPE)	41.	Abigail Spears (USA)
T17.	Nicole Melichar (USA)	42.	Monica Niculescu (ROU)
T17.	Kveta Peschke (CZE)	43.	Lyudmyla Kichenok (UKR)
19.	Ekaterina Makarova (RUS)	44.	Lidziya Marozava (BLR)
20.	A. Hlavackova Sestini (CZE)	45.	Vera Zvonareva (RUS)
21.	Anna-Lena Groenefeld (GEF	R)46.	Alexandra Krunic (SRB)
22.	Lucie Hradecka (CZE)	47.	A. Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)
23.	CoCo Vandeweghe (USA)	48.	Katarina Srebotnik (SLO)
24.	Kirsten Flipkens (BEL)	49.	Laura Siegemund (GER)
25.	Duan Ying-Ying (CHN)	50.	Jennifer Brady (USA)

50. Kristina Mladenovic (FRA)







The first US Open in 1968 was a landmark breakthrough for tennis in America. But it was the succeeding championships —50 years ago—that turned the nation's premier tournament into a world-class event. BY RICK RENNERT

The arrival of tennis's modern era in 1968

took nearly everyone by surprise. For half a century, the International Lawn Tennis Federation (now the ITF) had dismissed all attempts to open up the sport to professional players and allow them to compete against amateurs. The United States Lawn Tennis Association (now the USTA) had tried longer and harder than any other national tennis association to get the ITF to change its stance on open tennis, maintaining ever since Bill Tilden's rise to star status in the 1920s that embracing professional tennis would increase the game's popularity. Nevertheless, the ITF routinely denied the USTA's proposal to lift the ban against professionals and permit open championships in which fans could see all of the game's top players in action at the same tournaments. In 1934, the USTA decided to take matters into its own hands by sanctioning an open tournament without ITF approval. The other tennis nations quickly drafted a code of rules that disallowed the event and prevented any similar challenge to ITF authority.

And so it went over the next few decades. Every attempt to introduce open tennis was voted down, as the ITF continued to insist that letting paid players compete against amateurs would taint the sport's ideal as a game played purely for fun and fitness.

The US Open was held at Forest Hill's West Side Tennis Club (inset) for its first 10 years before relocating in 1978 to its current site. the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

The ban came close to being overturned in 1960, when all four Grand Slam nations-Australia, France, Great Britain and the United States-banded together to push for open competition, only to see their proposal fall five votes short of the

required two-thirds majority. Subsequent attempts to introduce open tennis continued to be voted down by the ITF as the decade wore on. In 1967, the year before the start of tennis's Open Era, the ITF defeated a proposal to let professionals compete against amateurs by 139 votes to 83.

The staging of the inaugural World Lawn Tennis Professional Championships at Wimbledon's All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club in August 1967 proved to be the catalyst for the sport's historic change. The first appearance by professional players on Wimbledon's hallowed grass lawns was received so enthusiastically by fans that the British Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) vowed to hold the next Grand Slam championships at Wimbledon, in the summer of 1968, as an open tournament "come hell or high water." To prepare for an open Wimbledon, the LTA announced in December 1967 that it would abolish "the ancient line" between amateurs and professionals at the first event in a series of spring tournaments leading up to Wimbledon, the Hard Court Championships of Great Britain, which was scheduled to start in Bournemouth on April 22, 1968.

The ITF responded in early January 1968 by threatening to suspend Great Britain from the international tennis community if the tournament were held. But the movement toward open tennis continued to pick up steam. One by one, Australia, France and the United States announced that they sided with Great Britain and would consider leaving the ITF if the British were expelled.

To see if the coming chaos could be averted, the ITF agreed to hold a Special General Meeting in Paris three weeks before the Bournemouth tournament got underway. USTA President Robert Kelleher, soon to become a federal judge, arrived in Paris several days ahead of the meeting and immediately began working behind the scenes to convince the representatives from 47 nations to sanction open tennis before the British acted on their plans.

"The 'Big Four' developed the game," Kelleher maintained, "and we have a right to see how it is run."

On March 30, 1968, the ITF delegates convened at the Place de la Concorde in Paris and voted on the sport's future direction. Nation after nation took the side of the Big Four, turning the movement for open





tournaments into a landslide. A motion to sanction open play passed without a single dissenting vote.

The ITF stopped short of opening up the game entirely, however. The day after open tennis received unanimous approval by every member nation, the ITF's Committee of Management agreed to sanction only 12 experimental "opens" for 1968.

The original lineup of open tournaments for 1968 consisted of tennis's four major championships, as well as events in Ireland, Scandinavia, South Africa, Asia and South America. But after each national association considered its existing tournament schedule, facilities and finances, a few changes were made. Great Britain, which had sought to hold as many as nine open tournaments in 1968, staged four open

events, while the United States, which had contemplated as many as four open tourneys, ended up holding two: one in New York and the other in Los Angeles. France, Ireland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina became the other host nations of the first open tournaments, with one each. Australia, the last Grand Slam nation to stage an open championship, put on its first one in 1969, when the ITF increased the total number of open competitions to 30.

"You have to creep before you can crawl, and the evolutionary process will take time," Kelleher said before leaving Paris to discuss with the USTA leadership where America's first open tournament would be held. There was no question that the event would be the U.S. National Championships, which had been played every year since 1881. But the site was another matter.

The leading contenders were the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., which had been staging the national singles championships virtually every year since 1915, and the Longwood Cricket Club in Chestnut Hill, Mass., the nation's oldest tennis club and the primary home of the national doubles championships since 1917. Boston, Cleveland, Los Angeles and Milwaukee were among the other cities that met the mid-April deadline for submitting a bid to host the historymaking event.

But Forest Hills had the inside track. The West Side Tennis Club boasted the nation's first—and then still biggest—tennis stadium, with 14,000 seats. Its New York City location was another major selling point for attracting top players, fans and media coverage. Forest Hills also promised \$100,000 in prize money, \$60,000 more than Longwood was offering and \$40,000 more than Wimbledon's prize money total.

Legendary champions Billie Jean King (top) and Arthur Ashe at Forest Hills Stadium, decades before the US Open grounds and its main stadium were named after them. Being able to put on the richest tournament in tennis history clinched the deal. In May 1968, a USTA committee headed by Kelleher awarded the US Open to Forest Hills. With the tournament less than four months away, the West Side Tennis Club enlisted the help of Madison Square Garden to ensure the promotion, pub-

licity, advertising and ticket sales operated smoothly. There would be five separate competitions: men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and a senior men's (45 and over) doubles event, scheduled to take place mid-tournament, with former U.S. greats such as Don Budge, Jack Kramer, Bobby Riggs and Vic Seixas expected to compete.

The biggest attraction, of course, was the opportunity to see the game's top amateurs, led by Arthur Ashe, prove they were the equals of those who played the game for pay. Fans attended the first US Open in droves to establish a record gate at Forest Hills. Even with the finals pushed back by rain, the 1968 US Open drew more than 97,000 fans, an increase of nearly 15 percent over the previous year's U.S. National Championships, while box office receipts more than doubled.

The next US Open became even bigger and better. With a full year to prepare, the 1969 tournament launched many of the attractions and innovations now associated with the US Open. Joseph F. Cullman 3rd, chief executive officer of Philip Morris, was appointed chairman, and one of his first acts was to hire tennis promoter Owen Williams as tournament director. With the help of Wimbledon official Mike Gibson, who was brought in as tournament referee, they focused on making the tournament more accommodating for fans.

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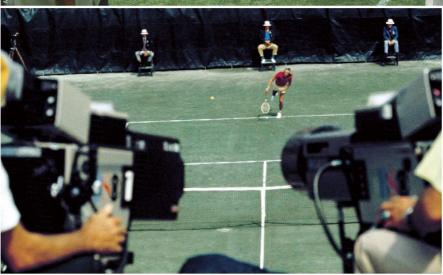












"You only had to step through the doors of Forest Hills to notice the change of mood," observed David Gray, among the first tennis writers inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. "It was a bit like meeting a middle-aged lady who resisted change for years, and suddenly finding that in the space of a few months she has painted her face, restyled her hair and chopped a foot off her skirts."

The 1969 US Open was expanded to 12 days, and matches were arranged to follow each other without intermission. Leading players were scheduled to compete early in the opening rounds, to help keep the tournament on schedule in the event of rain. The first round of the doubles competitions, which in 1968 had begun fully on the fifth day, was moved to the second day. Instead of following the previous year's schedule of three finals on the last day, the five title matches were spread

Clockwise from top left: Chris Evert attracted national attention, including an interview by Howard Cosell, with her 1971 US Open debut at age 16. Jimmy Connors, in 1976, became the only player in history to own US Open titles won on both clay and grass courts. Bjorn Borg was a big draw for fans everywhere, including the US Open, where he tied the record for most singles finals without a victory. Accompanied by her mother, Jeanne, Tracy Austin debuted at the US Open in 1977 at age 14.

over the last three days to form a Finals Weekend. The senior men's doubles, which had drawn fewer prominent players than hoped for, was replaced by mixed doubles, a US Open fixture ever since. Ticket prices were reduced for the first nine days, with student tickets available for the first seven days. United Nations Day, Armed Forces Day and Ladies Day, which included fans taking part in a fashion show, were held.

"This tournament has been a dream, compared to last year," said Patti Hogan, who played in the first eight US Opens. "As a player, I can tell you how nice it is to play to full stands."

Although Hogan lost in the opening round, her playing was not done. The 1969 US Open introduced a novel experi-

ment, the VASS Consolation Tournament, which offered \$12,000 in prize money to first-round losers and was conducted under the Van Alen Simplified Scoring System (VASS), a nine-point tiebreak invented to shorten long sets. The tiebreak delighted fans, and the following year's US Open became the first Grand Slam tournament to use it in the main draws.

The 1969 US Open also promised a "New Look" at Forest Hills, and fans' expectations were amply rewarded. Front-row boxes encircling Forest Hills Stadium and a new row of marquee boxes were added to the historic structure. A US Open Club, built underneath the stadium's portals, could be enjoyed for \$50, offering such amenities as a lounge, restaurant, bar and one-way





glass that looked out on Center Court, along with a private canopied entrance and valet parking. Colorfully striped pavilions were erected for corporate entertainment with hospitality suites. More food stands were added, including ones selling Borden's Yogurt and Maxim's Iced Coffee. A writer from the French sports daily *L'Equipe* said the 1969 US Open was the only tournament she had been to that had more places to eat than courts. Flowers and flags decorated the grounds. A huge rectangular electronic scoreboard was donated by Philip Morris at a cost of \$167,000 and was installed in the stadium. The most modern scoreboard ever devised for tennis, it reported results from other courts, as did a computerized IBM information board servicing the field courts, flashing statistical data about the players, including percentage of points won, aces served and double faults, as well as biographical information and match histories.

"There was more of everything at the United States Open tennis championships in Forest Hills this year—prize money, gate receipts, cohesion, scheduling, promotion, enthusiasm, great matches," Parton Keese reported for the *New York Times* in his 1969 US Open wrap-up. "An aura surrounded this second Open, which most people will remember as the one that brought Rod Laver of Australia his second Grand Slam." (For more on Laver's Grand Slam achievement, see "When the Rocket Soared," pages 152-54.)

For the 1969 US Open and the ones that followed, *more* would be used frequently to describe the tournament's evolution. The US Open would become *more* of an event, boasting *more* fans in the stands, *more* attractions around the grounds, *more* media exposure in print and on television, *more* stars on the courts and, of course, *more* money to fuel the transformation from a tennis tournament into a sports and

entertainment extravaganza. The arrival of open tennis gave the sport's brightest stars and biggest personalities a giant stage on which to perform and provided them with a growing global platform upon which they could be elevated into household names. After decades of being banned from the Grand Slam championships, professional players finally had the opportunity to reap the game's highest rewards at its premier events.

When the 1969 US Open ended and tennis entered the 1970s, top players such as Ashe, Laver, Margaret Court and Billie Jean King were soon joined by a cast of rising new stars—including Tracy Austin, Bjorn Borg, Chris Evert, Jimmy Connors, Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe—whose popularity and play on the courts of the West Side Tennis Club would further help the tournament grow ... and then outgrow Forest Hills, leading to a move across the borough of Queens to a larger facility in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, where the sport would continue to boom and the US Open would continue to showcase world-class tennis played at its highest level.

The evolution of the US Open has never really stopped, of course. The recently completed five-year, \$600-million strategic transformation of the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, the tournament's home since 1978, now provides visitors with even more opportunities to enjoy all the event has to offer. Last year, the venue welcomed a record 828,798 attendees over the course of the event and engaged millions more fans on its social and digital platforms. From its modest beginnings in 1968, the US Open has continued to grow with the times, offering attendees a fan experience like no other tennis event in the world, as the tournament celebrates—and then brings down the curtain on—the Grand Slam season in its unique and special way.

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aul Kane/Getty Images

the Serena experience

This entire story was-and is-

so wondrously improbable that it's easy to forget this small bit of incongruity. But let the record reflect: It was the younger sister who broke through first and inaugurated the Williams family tennis dynasty.

At the 1999 US Open, Venus Williams may have been the brightest star in the women's tennis cosmos. Though only 19, she was up to No. 3 in the rankings, she had beaten all the other leading lights and her first major title was a question of when, not if. She hit with power that may well have been unprecedented. She competed

fiercely. She covered the court almost as if her half were a different size from the opponent's.

Yet at that tournament, Venus lost in the semifinals—only to have another Williams sister blaze a path through the draw and become champion. Serena Williams, then 17, didn't merely win the tournament; she broke through in the most emphatic way imaginable, surpassing a battery of future Hall of Famers. In order, Serena beat Kim Clijsters, Conchita Martinez, Monica Seles and Lindsay Davenport. In the final, Serena exacted revenge on the player who had defeated her big sister, taking out Martina Hingis, as Venus looked on stonily. And tennis history would never be the same.

For all that Richard Williams, the paterfamilias, got right, he really nailed this: Asked how his two tennis-playing daughters differed, Richard smiled and said, "Serena is meaner." Translation: Serena was endowed with a level of self-belief and competitive will and ferocity that was unrivaled. It was on vivid display throughout that 1999 US Open.

That Serena would break through first soon would become a minor

With her first major singles championship 20 years ago,
Serena Williams began to reshape tennis.
She is still crafting, as 24 majors looms on the horizon.

BY L. JON WERTHEIM

detail. For one, there was the sweep of the whole Williams narrative, for our money the most remarkable sports story ever told. An African American girl raised in Compton would come to rule women's tennis, becoming the Greatest of All Time in the minds of many, and, unquestionably, the best player of the last quarter-century? And the second-best player of this interval would be ... her sister?

Venus would soon restore natural order, capturing the Venus Rosewater Dish at Wimbledon in 2000 and then taking her sister's crown by winning the 2000 US Open.

She would successfully defend both titles in 2001.

And Serena, too, would get back to the business of winning majors. That 1999 US Open title, deep in what Serena historians would later call "the bead years," when she was 17? It would kick off two decades of relentless excellence. She would win the last three majors held in 2002 and then the first of 2003, completing a "Serena Slam." Turns out, she was just warming up.

Serena didn't just win majors by the dozen; she won each at least three times, a testament to her versatility. A year without a Serena Williams major title came to feel like a year without a certain color or taste. It was almost unnatural.

Interspersed, there were doubles titles with her sister, which always seemed to bring with them her biggest smiles. There were Olympic gold medals, more than 70 titles overall, more prize money accumulated than any other female athlete—never mind tennis player—in history and countless other memorable moments.

But those are merely the Wikipedia-style facts and figures. As

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 119

impressive as they may be, they sell short the Serena Experience. The Serena Experience has entailed a career of dazzling highs, some decided lows, a brush with death, personal tragedy and personal triumph—not least marriage and motherhood—all sandwiched around stubbornly persistent excellence.

The Serena Experience meant that tennis intersected with themes such as race, class, fashion and culture. The Serena Experience meant that there would be times when she played tennis at its most elevated, marrying power, accuracy and strategy like no other player. It also meant there would be times when she simply willed herself to win.

But perhaps the most dramatic arc was Serena's relationship with tennis—and it with her. Sure, in previous years, Serena and tennis were an on-again, off-again item. And sure, she could divide fans. But there has been



reconciliation. Serena plays to full houses and prolonged standing ovations.

And as tennis has embraced Serena, she has hugged back. There was a time when she professed boredom with the sport. She took pains to divorce herself from tennis culture, took pride in not caring about the sport's history. She had you believe it was only a matter of months before she would walk out on the relationship, seduced as she was by Hollywood and fashion and celebrity. Here she is, almost 38 years old and still part of the tennis workforce, the most meaningful indication that she loves and respects the sport, and relishes the competition.

What's more, she currently stands at 23 career major singles titles, one more than Steffi Graf and one fewer than Margaret Court, the record holder. For a player who long resisted the suggestion that she was playing not just for the present but for posterity, Serena has been unmistakably clear that the quest for

24—tennis immortality—has been one of her driving motivations.

So it is that Serena returns to the scene of the crime, the site of her first major singles crown, an event that occurred an even 20 years ago. For perspective: Bill Clinton was president, Facebook was five years from its founding and two tall towers stood in Lower Manhattan.

From winning her first major (top) to hoisting her most recent US Open crown in 2014 (left), Serena Williams, with 23 majors, is one of the greatest champions ever.

So much has changed. The landscape is scarcely recognizable. Roofs now cover courts that were once splashed with rain, causing delays. Heck, one court was torn down and built all over again. A signifier of that era's strength, 11 different players from the 1999 women's singles field are now enshrined in the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Of the 128 players in the draw that year, 126

are now retired. The two that are still active share, of course, the same surname: Williams.

Yet so much else must ring familiar. Same venue. Same time of year. Same familiar drive to and from comfortable midtown Manhattan accommodations, through a tunnel and onto the Long Island Expressway. Same big sister, there for support, a minesweeper who can clear obstacles in the draw and provide a measure of security.

And above all, Serena is faced with the same elemental task: to hit the ball with more power and accuracy than the other player. To make sure she possesses superior will as well as superior skill. To win 14 sets over two weeks. "At the end of the day," Serena once said wisely, "tennis is simple. But it's really not."

It has been more than half her lifetime ago that she first won the title in New York, the first jewel in her necklace of majors. It has been a year since she reached the final and then lost, under regrettable circumstances. All part of the Serena Experience.

Now she is back, with designs of making history, not reliving it. Like all the great ones, Serena has found plenty, but is still searching. She is satisfied, but still hungry. Long may her flame burn.





Boars Head

MINISTER of DEFENSE

Novak Djokovic puts a different spin on what it means to be a defending champion.

BY STEVE FLINK

is a sparkling Sunday evening, September 13, 2015. Novak Djokovic is confronting Roger Federer in Arthur Ashe Stadium in a riveting US Open final. Djokovic, fighting furiously from the backcourt to outperform his prodigious adversary in one pulsating exchange after another, is serving at 4-3, 0-15 in the opening set. On the 14th stroke of the rally, Federer leans into a flat forehand and drives it with interest down the line, but Djokovic cedes no ground, answering with a solid crosscourt backhand. Federer now tags a scintillating backhand down the line, seemingly leaving Djokovic at his mercy. But, on the dead run, the impeccably balanced Serbian laces a forehand crosscourt, pulling Federer off the court, provoking the Swiss into a forehand error from a full stretch. Djokovic eventually prevails in four tumultuous sets to claim his second US Open crown.

That memorable point in the eighth game of the match is a microcosm of Djokovic's genius, as well as a window into a singularly versatile champion and as masterful a two-way practitioner as the sport has witnessed. Federer had control of that exchange twice, with his back-to-back down-the-line shots. But Djokovic came out of treacherous territory and shifted seamlessly from defense to offense, leaving Federer dumbfounded. Countless other Djokovic rivals across the years have suffered the same fate.

Just this summer at Wimbledon, Belgium's David Goffin, a former Top 10 player, lamented, "You have to play the perfect point to win it against him. ... Even if you play well, it's not enough because he continues to play deep, close to the line, left, right."

Paul Annacone—the former coach of Pete Sampras and Federer, and currently working with Taylor Fritz—says this about Djokovic, who came to Flushing Meadows this year defending his third US Open championship, the 2018 crown: "Novak Djokovic is the best offensive defender in the history of the game. He has done it at an unparalleled level. Novak can be totally in a defensive mode; you think maybe his shot can come back over. But when it comes back close to a line with good velocity, you are just not used to that because it doesn't happen with anybody else."

What is it that sets Djokovic apart from his rivals in his capacity to blend defense and offense into something indistinguishable? How does he operate on such unique terrain?

"He just has that incredible flexibility in his body," says Darren Cahill, one of the sport's premier commentators, along with Annacone, and the former coach of Simona Halep, Andre Agassi and Lleyton Hewitt, among others. "The way [Djokovic] can transition is unlike anything I have ever seen.

"Tennis is played in three parts: the defensive zone, neutral zone and attacking zone. He does a great job of transitioning through all three zones. From an athletics point of view of finding power and accuracy on the stretch, he is the best I have ever seen."

"Defense" was not a term used often in the tennis lexicon way back when. Yet no one is saying defending was not a central part of tennis in decades gone by, particularly on clay. Back in the '70s and '80s, standouts such as Chrissie Evert, Tracy Austin, Bjorn Borg, Mats Wilander and, later, Michael Chang came to the forefront partially because they could defend with unerring consistency from the backcourt and with stupendous passing shots. They could maddeningly get one more ball back, time after time.

"Defense in my day was different," explains Evert, a six-time US Open champion. "The one big difference is that defensive players were content with just running the ball down, getting the ball back and waiting for the opponent to make an error. Now, the defensive players are more aggressive and they have more on the ball. They still are consistent, but attack when they have an opening."

Cahill asserts: "It was more of an attacking game back in my day as a player (1982-95); so players were looking to play from the neutral to the attacking zone. You didn't get caught in the defensive zone too much."

Annacone attributes that, at least in part, to equipment. "A lot of it comes down to bigger, stronger athletes," he says. "Some of it is just the added ability of the players with the modern equipment. But now with the lighter





racquets and the strings that grab (the ball) and create spin more easily, you can do things that just weren't possible two decades ago. Novak has put this at a whole new level."

Indeed, the brand of defense displayed over the past 10-20 years has changed sweepingly. 2012 US Open victor and three-time major champion Andy Murray, prior to the hip injury that has sidelined him for most of the last two seasons, exploited his outstanding foot speed and excellent anticipation to run down balls inexhaustibly, purposefully coaxing errors from his adversaries. Rafael Nadal scrapes balls back—especially off the backhand—when stretched out until he can establish himself and find the forehand he wants, unleashing a scorching shot and setting up a winner into the open court.

Yet, as Annacone points out, "Rafa is a great defender, but he is not

quite as elastic or as long as Novak; so he defends differently. Andy is long, but usually defends from deeper positions. Murray makes you hit extra balls, but not with the offensive velocity that Novak generates. I just don't know anybody else who is as good at that."

That is the view shared by many.

And to keep things clear, Djokovic is not a counterpuncher.

"The definition of a counterpuncher," Cahill explains, "is to sit back and let your opponent do all the work to generate the power, and you just use that power to throw the ball back into the court. There are not too many players like that anymore. I would call Novak an aggressive baseliner."

However, Djokovic is not solely setting the agenda with utter control of rallies. He is in a league of his own as a defender, especially off his backhand side. Djokovic frequently refuses to resort to a one-handed slice backhand when forced wide or off the court. He drives his two-hander from an open stance like no one else. It is his trademark methodology and his defining trait.

"It is crazy what Novak is able to do off that open stance backhand," Cahill says. "I have never seen anything like it. His timing is amazing. He throws the ball back nice and deep, with a lot of power, to get back to neutral in the point, which is incredible. He just has the ability to push himself in areas most players cannot."

Tennis these days is largely a backcourt battlefield, dominated by potent ball strikers and ruled by players with a penchant for controlling their own destinies with bold shotmaking. But without a propensity for playing defense as an avenue to get back on offense, it can all go for naught.

Djokovic is now climbing the steep ladder of history and striving for a fourth US Open title this year. In his past 11 appearances at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, the Serbian has advanced at least as far as the semifinals. Currently owning 16 major championship singles titles, four behind Federer's all-time men's record of 20, Djokovic might one day be regarded as the best ever because he has the finest return of serve in the history of the game, uncanny instincts, extraordinary match playing prowess and the ability to defend and dictate with the same excellence.

"Like everybody else in the field, he is getting better all around," Annacone says. "Novak probably is even better at defense than he used to be, making it more difficult for opponents to finish off points. He just keeps mastering it. That is a little scary."

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Just Medical Stam (winning all for red) and the state of the state of

Naomi Osaka attracts followers for different reasons, but she is a champion—defending her US Open crown—because she thrives under pressure.

BY LOUISA THOMAS

At a press conference before this year's French Open, Naomi Osaka, when asked about her goals, mentioned winning all four majors in one year. Never mind that she was ranked outside the Top 20 only a year earlier—or that no one has rightfully claimed a Grand Slam (winning all for major championships within a calendar year) since Steffi Graf did it in

1992. Osaka wasn't being arrogant. But she also wasn't really being naive. She had a champion's quiet confidence and characteristic honesty. Osaka went into Roland Garros as the reigning US Open and Australian Open champion. She had won her past 14 matches at majors. She was the No. 1 player in the world. Why shouldn't she believe?

She stepped onto the court for her first-round match against Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova and looked uncomfortable immediately. Osaka's groundstrokes were wild, her serve unreliable, her shot selection iffy. Some of that was probably because of the surface; she hadn't quite mastered the tricky art of sliding into her shots. But the bigger problem seemed to be in her mind. Overwhelmed, Osaka lost the first set, 6-0, and went down a break in the second. Schmiedlova had the chance to serve for the match. Before Osaka's French Open began, it appeared to be over.

On the changeover after falling behind 4-5 in the second set, visibly emotional, Osaka put a towel over her head. Then she stood up, walked to the baseline and went on to win the match.

Far more remarkable than the match was the reaction to it. Many considered it less a sign of her poor form than a reminder that Osaka had the ability to tap into something that few others could. She thrived when others wilted.

Osaka went on to lose in the third round to Katerina Siniakova, a disappointing result, but hardly a real setback. The lingering impression was frightening for her opponents: The tour's latest multiple Grand Slam tournament champion has room to improve—and the mental resilience to do it.

It is incredible to think that, a year ago, Osaka came into the US Open struggling to string together wins. Back then, there was no question of her talent and her appeal. Her forehand, with its causally incredible power, was justly famous, and she had shown improved movement all season. She also had charmed reporters and the public during press conferences, with her jokes and idiosyncratic pop culture references. But it wasn't until the US Open that she started to play with the self-assurance that carried her through the final. Then, stunning everyone—except maybe herself—she did it again a few months later at the Australian Open.

Osaka is no machine, impervious to pressure. She feels it; she'll tell you. But she has an ability to do what few people can: She can tune out her own negative thoughts. She is able to shift her perspective, not only in retrospect, but in the moment. She reflects and adjusts—even when the cameras are on and the world is watching.

It is possible that Osaka's unusual self-awareness has something to do with her unusual background. Tennis is a global game, and no one reflects that more than Osaka.

Her father is Haitian, and her mother is Japanese. Osaka was born in Japan, spent years living with her Haitian grandparents on Long Island and grew up on the hard courts of Florida. As a tennis player, she represents Japan, and she is a major celebrity there. A phalanx of Japanese reporters follow Osaka around the globe. But she is also proud of her Haitian







heritage, and her American accent and facility with pop culture attest to how this country has shaped her as well. (Over the years, her press conferences have included references to everything from the video game Overwatch to mesothelioma commercials, and from SpongeBob SquarePants to Nicki Minaj.)

Osaka's mixed race heritage has been the subject of some fascination,

especially in Japan (which is more ethnically homogenous), but generally everywhere she goes. She bridles, though, at the suggestion that she is caught between identities. Asked about her identity during a press conference, Osaka seemed confused by the question. "I'm just me," she said. And indeed, she is utterly unique, with a disarming mix of self-confessed awkwardness and comfort in her own skin.

But nowhere is Osaka's deep confidence more apparent than on a tennis court. It is obvious, first, in her serve, a smooth, thunderous shot she can hit with power and place with precision. Osaka has the ability that Serena Williams has: On big points, when the pressure is greater, Osaka can settle in, reel back and hit an ace, getting herself out of trouble again and again. She has one of the best forehands in the game, the kind of shot that only seems to speed up as it moves through the court. Her backhand is a solid and improving shot, and her net game, which was almost

non-existent when she came out of nowhere to win the US Open, has been getting better. As her game incorporates more variety, she should become an even more dangerous player.

After all, Osaka is only 21 years old, with years of improvement ahead of her. At the same time, she already has the experience and matchplay of a seasoned veteran. She is both impatient for success and realistic about what she can and should do, whether it's taking the risk to rope a forehand down the line or setting her sights on winning it all.

It won't be easy for Osaka to sustain her success, something she

Across the last two seasons, Naomi Osaka built a 16-match winning streak at the majors, the longest since 33 in a row by Serena Williams in 2014-15. has been learning the hard way. "I just feel like there has been a weight on me," Osaka confessed in May. The expectations are high; the pressure is intense; the promise is real.

Osaka comes into this US Open in an entirely new position, as the defending champion. A year ago, she was largely unknown; now she is one of the most famous women in

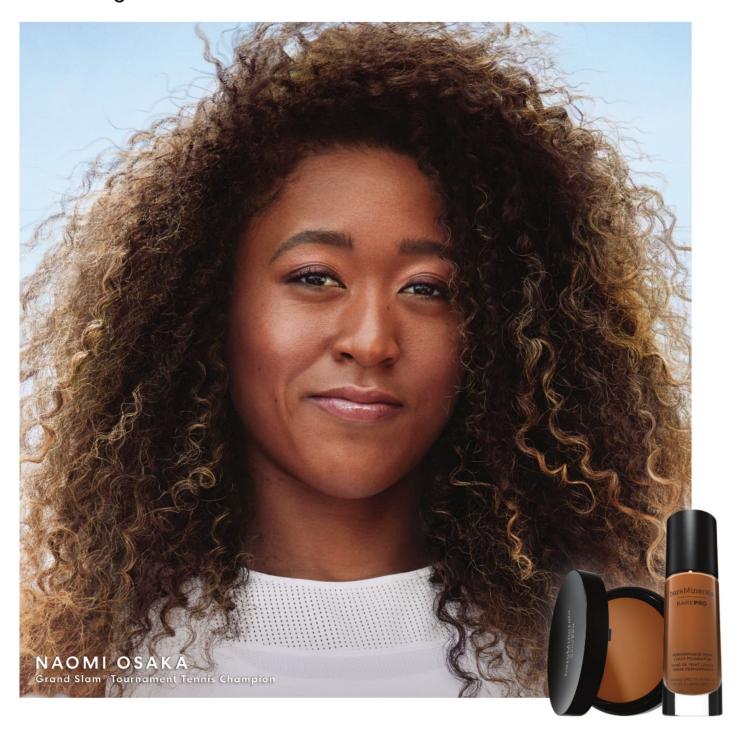
the world. She will have huge support in New York—from the Japanese, from the large Haitian community, from the countless people drawn to her from different backgrounds. She will not be able to fly under the radar to the title this time. And anything less than another championship will be, in the eyes of some people, a disappointment. Whatever happens, though, she will likely learn from it.

Osaka has not always handled expectations perfectly, but she has handled herself unerringly. Besides, New York suits her. She thrives when others wilt, and though her game runs hot, she has an edgy, urban cool. She may be shy in conversation, but she doesn't duck from the city's bright lights or the enormous stage of Arthur Ashe Stadium. She knows how to win.

We haven't yet seen the limits of what Osaka can do.

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the next four US Open crowns, too, becoming the only man to capture five consecutive championships in New York in the Open Era. Indeed, only two men in history have sustained greater success in America's premier tennis event: Richard Sears, who inaugurated the U.S. Championships with seven straight titles, and Bill Tilden, who won the U.S. Championships six years in a row. However, Federer, unlike Sears or Tilden, was concurrently racking up multiple crowns at the Australian Open and Wimbledon. From 2005 Wimbledon through his 2007 US Open championship, Federer contested an unprecedented 10 consecutive Grand Slam tournament finals, winning eight of them.

Federer has claimed more Wimbledon titles (eight), and he collected his most recent Grand Slam tournament crowns at the Australian Open (2017-18). But the US Open has been a bellwether of excellence for Federer, the only major where he has advanced at least as far as the round of 16 each year he has played since 2001.

Here are 15 other fun facts celebrating Federer's majesty at the start of the 2019 US Open:



Federer has played 76 different players in the main draw of the US Open, none more often than Novak Djokovic, this year's defending champion. Federer and Djokovic have squared off six times at the US Open, their head-to-head at 3-3 entering the 2019 tournament.

HAS PLAYED 19,839 POINTS AT THE US OPEN, WINNING 10,934 OF THEM.

With each US Open match victory, Federer is closing in on Jimmy Connors's men's singles record of 98 wins. The 2019 US Open began with Federer having won 85 matches.

Thirty-two different umpires have chaired Federer's 98 US Open matches. Enric Molina, Pascal Maria and Jake Garner lead the procession with nine matches each. Carlos Bernardes is the only person who has been in the chair for multiple Federer US Open titles, overseeing the 2006 and 2008 triumphs.



Carlos Bernardes



The last time Federer played a match outside Arthur Ashe Stadium was Labor Day 2013, when a rain-juggled schedule put him in Louis Armstrong Stadium for his fourth-round match against Tommy Robredo. That was 22 matches ago. In 98 US Open matches before this year, Federer's court appearances (with match totals) have been: Arthur Ashe Stadium (84), Louis Armstrong Stadium (8), Court 11 (2), Court 7 (2), Grandstand (1), Court 10 (1).



Federer has spent 205 hours, 11 minutes on court at the US Open. That works out to more than eight full days, enough time to make four roundtrip flights from New York City to Melbourne, watch the entire Lord of the Rings trilogy 22 times or listen to Drake's "In My Feelings" 3,403 times on a loop.

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 131



CIRST NIGHT 8

FEDERER HAS PLAYED A NIGHT MATCH ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE US OPEN FOUR TIMES, 2010-13. HE PLAYED INSIDE ARTHUR ASHE STADIUM ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT THREE OTHER TIMES: 2004, 2007 AND 2009.

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100 GRAND

Should Federer reach the second round of the 2019 US Open, he'll become the first player in history to play 100 main draw singles matches at three different majors (Australian Open—111, Wimbledon—114).





THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

Federer's five consecutive US Open championships featured a total of 363 aces, with 67 double faults.

Federer had at least one double fault in each of his first 25 US Open matches, a streak he snapped en route to his 2005 title when, in the quarterfinals, he aced David Nalbandian 11 times without once double faulting.

12 STRAIGHT FLUSH

In 2007, on his way to his fourth consecutive US Open crown, Federer won 35 points in a row on serve against Feliciano Lopez in a fourth-round victory. Lopez, at 2018 Wimbledon, broke Federer's record of 65 straight Grand Slam tournament singles appearances.



In 98 US Open matches from 2000 through 2018, Federer served four aces in a single service game just three times, and of those, his 2011 fourth-round triumph over Juan Monaco is the only time Federer has won a game with four consecutive aces.

14 THE LONG & SHORT OF IT

Federer's longest US Open match was the 2009 final against Juan Martin del Potro, which lasted four hours, six minutes. Federer's shortest match was a 63-minute rout of Ivo Minar in the 2005 first round.



GIANT SLAYER

THE ONLY PLAYER
FEDERER HAS FACED
MULTIPLE TIMES AT
THE US OPEN AND
NEVER BEATEN IS
JUAN MARTIN DEL
POTRO, WHO STOPPED
FEDERER IN THE 2009
TOURNAMENT FINAL
AND THE 2017
QUARTERFINALS.

- compiled by Ashley Marshall





n Pottheiser/IISTA

a perfect match

From the time they were juniors playing tournaments in Florida and beyond, Madison Keys and Sloane Stephens have been catching attention and nurturing a bond.

BY KYLE RINGO

No one could blame Sloane Stephens and Madison Keys for being tired of each other by now. After all, they've spent years working around each other.

When Keys moved to Boca Raton, Fla., from Rock Island, Ill., in 2005, Stephens had been in the area less than two years herself, after moving from Northern California. The first tournament in which their paths sort of crossed was the Eddie Herr International Junior Tennis Championships that November, with Stephens advancing to the semifinals, while Keys bowed out in the second round of the 256-draw event.

Not quite a decade ago, they were both quarterfinalists in the 2010 USTA Girls' 18 National Championships, Stephens as the No. 1 seed in one of her final junior events and Keys at No. 11. The following year, they both made their US Open women's singles main draw debuts. Stephens got to the third round; Keys reached the second.

Then, of course, there's the 2017 US Open final. But that can wait.

Keys and Stephens are, perhaps, the U.S. women many expect to contend regularly for Grand Slam tournament titles and to compete for the WTA top ranking, not to mention endorsement dollars, in the post-Williams sisters era (whenever that may be). Indeed,

Stephens, 26, and Keys, 24, are both fiercely competitive and driven, with luminous smiles and powerful forehands.

Until Amanda Anisimova's breakthrough this year at Roland Garros, Keys and Stephens had been seen as each other's major hurdle in rising to claim the throne of American women's

tennis, which has resided in the Williams family's hands for nearly 20 years. That begs this question regarding Stephens and Keys: Why should they like each other? Shouldn't this be war?

It's not even close.

"I call Maddie my work wife," Stephens said in April when the pair were part of the U.S. Fed Cup team facing Switzerland in San Antonio.

Throughout the week, they were almost always together, whether out in public in front of the Alamo waiting for a press conference to begin or sitting courtside supporting their teammates, looking at their smartphones, sharing laughs.

Keys and Stephens realized a significant portion of their next-generation hype by advancing to the 2017 US Open final. It was the first Grand Slam tournament final for both players and all the more remarkable for Stephens, who had been sidelined by a left foot

injury for 10 months heading into that summer. Her ranking had been as low as 957th a month before the US Open, where she was ranked No. 83.

Keys, the tournament's No. 15 seed, watched her friend win a semifinal match against the ever-popular Venus Williams, the two-time

The 2017 US Open

final between

Madison Keys (left)

and Sloane Stephens

is a benchmark

moment in a friendship that has

spanned more than

a decade.

US Open champion who, in a roundabout way, inspired Keys to take up tennis as a 4-year-old.

"When she won and put her hands in the air," Keys said, "I just got chills. I was just so happy for her."

Stephens then dispatched her friend in straight sets, 6-3, 6-0, in

the final to become the lowest-ranked American ever to claim the women's singles crown. When the match ended, with Keys hitting a ball into the net, their embrace seemed longer than their actual play, showing the world an affection for one another beyond the customary post-match blessings.

"We have known each other for so long and we have been through so much that we wanted to share that moment with each other," Keys said in the aftermath. "To be able to share my first Slam (final) experience with a really close friend when it's also her first Slam (final) is a really special moment."

Neither player seems to remember exactly

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 135



when they met way back as kids who were still trying to refine their games and make a name for themselves. Nor are they able to say what the attraction was, why they liked each other and remained friends all these years.

In fact, Keys said in a *New York Times* profile last year that people often seemed dead set on making them rivals.

"Sloane and I, since we were 12 and 14, have constantly been compared to each other," Keys told the *Times*. "Sloane would do something amazing, and I wouldn't, and it would be like, 'Oh, well, you know, Sloane is just better.' Then it would flip, and go back and forth. It was amazing, because people were obsessed with comparing us to each other and trying to pit us against each other, and we were supposed to still have a normal friendship. That's something that takes work, and takes acknowledgment.

"We've definitely had to balance it out, and not focus on being jealous, and not make our ambition turn into jealousy. We've both done a really good job at continuing to stay friends no matter who is doing what, who is ranked where, or anything else."

Despite competing in the same events as juniors, Stephens and Keys didn't face each other on the court until March 27, 2015, at the Miami Open. Stephens won each of their first three encounters: that 2015 match, the 2017 US Open final and a 2018 Roland Garros semifinal. She did so mostly by controlling rallies from behind the baseline, seemingly always one step ahead.

Keys broke through for her first victory



over her friend earlier this season, 7-6(6), 4-6, 6-2, in the quarterfinals of the Volvo Car Open in Charleston, S.C., where she claimed her first title on clay.

"It's just like any other match," Stephens said. "We go out; we play. Then we text after."

Having friends on tour is not unique; plenty of players are friends. But what is somewhat unusual, says U.S. Fed Cup Captain Kathy Rinaldi, is a close friendship between two players as highly ranked as Stephens and Keys. Former world No. 1s Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki are a similar example, with Williams having been a bridesmaid in Wozniacki's wedding this past June while three spots apart in the WTA rankings.

In Keys and Stephens, Rinaldi says she sees two young women with a lot in common, having fun spending time with each other. Nothing to see here, aside from their place in the American tennis hierarchy.

"It's a little unique among top players, I'd

Besides competing against one another on tour, Keys and Stephens have played as teammates on the U.S. Fed Cup team three times.

say, because it becomes a bit of a rivalry or competitiveness," Rinaldi explained, "but I think they have such great perspective on tennis and life and friendship and family. So it's not surprising to me."

Rinaldi, who peaked at No. 7 in the world in 1986, had friends on tour when she was playing in the 1980s and '90s. Zina Garrison, who ranked as high as No. 4 in 1989, and Jill Hetherington were in her wedding in 1993. Rinaldi had a 1-5 record against Garrison and split two doubles matches against Hetherington before they teamed for two titles in 11 finals.

The chemistry Keys and Stephens have off the court has not worked in their favor, thus far, in the few instances when they have partnered in doubles. They're 0-4 in those matches.

Stephens and Keys played an exhibition match against each other last year at the International Tennis Hall of Fame as part of enshrinement weekend activities during the Hall of Fame Open. It was the first time active WTA players had competed on site in more than 25 years. They were asked afterward what makes their relationship special.

"We both respect each other on the court, and we know that the other one is obviously out there for the same reasons that we are," Keys said. "But at the end of the day, we value our friendship, and 20 minutes after the match, we'll be completely back to normal and friends. It's really important to have someone like that in your life."



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AND AND SHILL

This year's US Open features an impressive number of young American players who are looking to continue their climb to the top of the sport.

BY WAYNE COFFEY

Sometimes the future announces itself early, so boldly and unexpectedly that we are caught unaware, watching it whiz by us as if it were a 120 mph ace up the middle. So it was two summers ago on the Grandstand Court at the US Open, the occasion being the 2017 girls' singles final, an all-American—indeed, all-Florida—matchup that showcased 16-year-old prodigy Amanda Anisimova and 13-year-old phenom Cori "Coco" Gauff, the youngest US Open junior finalist in history.

Anisimova, in the last junior match of her career, powered to a 6-0, 6-2 victory, a somewhat misleading score line that didn't reflect Gauff's immense talent and gumption, which she displayed in abundance, fighting off nine

match points in the 28-point game that ended the match. It was a stirring and uplifting day for U.S. tennis.

This summer, in the daunting crucible of Grand Slam tournament tennis, both Anisimova, from Aventura, Fla., and Gauff, from Delray Beach, served notice that they are abundantly ready and able to hit with the grown-ups ... and beat them.

Fifteen-year-old Coco Gauff turned the first week of 2019 Wimbledon into a debutante ball of sorts, drawing attention from fans all over the world.









Left to right: Amanda Anisimova, Sofia Kenin and Danielle Collins turned heads with their championship-quality play during the first half of the 2019 season. Far right, top and bottom: Fast-rising Caty McNally was ranked in the 700s a year ago, while CiCi Bellis, now 20, has used her protected ranking of No. 43 to return to the game this summer after being out of action for the past year and a half.

First, at Roland Garros, Anisimova made an astonishing run to the semifinals, becoming the first player born in the 2000s to advance to the final four of a major. With a coltish, 5-foot-11-inch frame and the ability to hit a deep, flat ball on both sides, she was never better than when she took down Simona Halep, the defending champion, in the quarterfinals.

"She will be in the top soon," Halep told reporters, after losing, 6-2, 6-4, to someone then-ranked No. 51. Anisimova left Paris at No. 26.

Scarcely a month later, Gauff, now all of 15, ranked No. 313 and only an inch shorter than Anisimova, became the biggest London tourist attraction this side of Buckingham Palace, emerging through Wimbledon qualifying—the youngest player to do so in the Open Era—to make the main draw. She defeated five-time champion Venus Williams, who at 39 was the oldest player in the field and one of Gauff's idols, in the first round. By the time Gauff, a stunningly mature player with a keen feel for the game, came from behind to knock off Slovenia's Polona Hercog in the third round, she was getting congratulatory messages from all over the world, one even from former first lady Michelle Obama.

While Anisimova and Gauff have justifiably commanded far-reaching attention for their summer Slam successes, they were merely continuing a strikingly upbeat, year-long narrative for the next generation of racquet-wielding American women.

In the first week of the 2019 season, 20-year-old Sofia Kenin won her first WTA title in doubles at Auckland and then went to Hobart the next week and claimed her first WTA singles crown. During the following fortnight, Danielle Collins, 25, charged to the Australian Open semifinals, a roll that included a shocking rout of three-time Grand Slam tournament singles titlist Angelique Kerber. Collins, from St. Petersburg, Fla., and a two-time NCAA champion for the University of Virginia, had never won a major championship singles match before getting to Melbourne this year.

Like Anisimova, Kenin is a South Floridian with Russian parents and a shining history in Flushing. She was runner-up in the 2015 US Open girls' singles event and has made it to the third round of women's singles the past two years. She isn't as big a hitter as Anisimova or Gauff, but Kenin has remarkable diversity in her game. Consider that along with her success this year on hard courts Down Under, she stunned Serena Williams on clay in the third round at Roland Garros and, a few weeks later on grass, claimed the title at Mallorca.

In addition to the championship-quality tennis played by this quartet of young American women, plus the WTA singles crowns claimed in the first half of the season by Madison Keys (Charleston) and Alison Riske ('s-Hertogenbosch), 19 different U.S. women took home 22 singles titles on the ITF World Tennis Tour/USTA Pro Circuit by the



time the summer hard court circuit began leading up to the US Open. All but four of those winning players were younger than 25.

The common thread to this uptick in U.S. results, if you ask Martin Blackman, General Manager, USTA Player Development, is the establishment of the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla., at Lake Nona, where there are 100 tennis courts, state-of-the-art training and fitness facilities, as well as housing, making it the nation's epicenter of player development. Before the start of the US Open Series in late July, there were 27 American women ranked in the WTA Top 200, including teens Anisimova, Gauff, Ann Li, 19, and 17-year-olds Caty McNally and Whitney Osuigwe.

The U.S. men weren't far behind, with 20 in the ATP Tour Top 200.

"The biggest benefit of the National Campus," Blackman says, "is that it has given us the ability to say, 'Yes,' to all of our best players, and also to be inclusive of their teams. [Players] come and bring their private coaches, their strength and fitness coaches, and can train together at the same time. And to have the junior players on the next court, looking [over] to see Madison Keys or Frances Tiafoe, you can't put a price tag on that.

"For a country to have that dynamic, it's really powerful and very beneficial to the ecosystem. You look at the leadership that Venus and Serena have given us, and then you look at Sloane (Stephens) and Madison breaking through in the last five years, and then see younger players between 16 and 20 coming up fast... It's a really exciting time for American tennis."

For her part, Gauff has taken a slightly different path to youthful stardom. Blessed with high-quality genes (her father, Corey, was a point guard at Georgia State and her mother, Candi, was a heptathlete and hurdler at Florida State), Gauff has long been seen by youth tennis cognoscenti as a player with special promise. She was coached by her father growing up, but for several years has trained at Patrick Mouratoglou's academy in Nice, France, and now works with a new coach, Jean-Christophe Faurel.

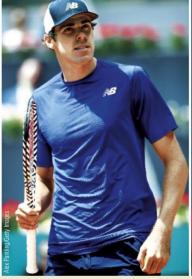
That said, Gauff has worked within the USTA Player Development system, too. She has been to the National Campus for an occasional camp and has spent a bit of time with Jose Higueras, former Director of Coaching, USTA Player Development, and Master Coach Consultant. She joined Osuigwe in the training camp held alongside the 2018 U.S. Fed Cup tie featuring the Williams sisters in Asheville, N.C. She has been part of every U.S. delegation to play international junior team events, helping the United States to last year's Junior Fed Cup title.

Anisimova, coincidentally, helped the U.S. team to the 2017 Junior Fed Cup championship and was on the 2016 squad that was runner-up.

Like Gauff, Anisimova also used to be coached by her father,

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 141









Boys to Men: The New Generation

Before the breakouts of teens Amanda Anisimova at Roland Garros and Coco Gauff at Wimbledon, Frances Tiafoe surged to the Australian Open quarterfinals this year almost by the time he turned 21. Having powered past then-No. 6 Kevin Anderson, a two-time Grand Slam tournament finalist, in the second round, Tiafoe, on his 21st birthday, upset former No. 3 and 2017 ATP Finals champion Grigor Dimitrov to reach the quarters. It was the first time since 2003, when Andy Roddick made the final eight at Wimbledon, that an American man had gone so deep at a major before his 22nd birthday.

"If you would've [told] me during the offseason, 'You're going to play Rafa (Nadal) in the quarterfinals [in Rod Laver Arena] with Rod Laver watching,' I probably would've laughed," Tiafoe said. "It's unbelievable... To be in a quarterfinal at a [major], knowing I can do this, that's the biggest thing."

Tiafoe claimed his first ATP singles crown last year at Delray Beach, becoming the youngest American to claim an ATP title since a 19-year-old Roddick at Houston in 2002.

But Tiafoe is not marching alone. Two other 21-year-olds, Taylor Fritz and Reilly Opelka, have been building their champions pedigree, while U.S. men such as Mackenzie "Mackie" McDonald, 24; Christopher Eubanks and Noah Rubin, both 23; Tommy Paul, 22; and Michael Mmoh, 21, complete the cadre Americans younger than 25 who populate the ATP Top 200.

Fritz did the very atypical American tennis player thing and spent practically this entire spring in Europe. His reward was collecting his first tour title, defeating veteran compatriot Sam Querrey in the final at Eastbourne. Fritz further proved himself during his European campaign by collecting victories against tour stalwarts such as Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Diego Schwartzman, Roberto Bautista Agut and Dimitrov. By the time he got home to start the summer hard court season, Fritz was the No. 2 U.S. player in the ATP rankings.

Opelka, all 6-foot, 11-inches of him, won his first ATP title at the New York Open this past February, defeating his fellow towering American, John Isner, along the way. (Opelka also stopped Isner in the first round of this year's Australian Open and the second round of the Atlanta Open.)

The last time the United States had a trio of ATP title winners who were no more than 21 was 2003, when, in fact, four American men claimed championships while they were 21 or younger. That was Taylor Dent, Mardy Fish, Robby Ginepri and Roddick.

Fritz, Opelka and Tiafoe present a lot of promise, especially at a time when careers are lasting longer. Martin Blackman, General Manager, USTA Player Development, says Tiafoe has all the tools and athletic ability to bust his way into the ranks of the elite, Fritz has "tons of upside and has shown he wants to be great," and Opelka, as exemplified this summer at Wimbledon, "has good movement for a man his size and has a serve nobody wants to face."

McDonald was the only one of the rising young American men to miss Wimbledon this year, after he stormed through to the round of 16 in his Championships debut in 2018. Surgery on his right hamstring derailed McDonald's 2019 campaign, which featured an upset of Juan Martin del Potro in February in the quarterfinals at Delray Beach and a rise to a career-best ranking of No. 57 in April.

At that time, the United States had more players in the ATP Top 100 than any other country, with four under-25 players in the Top 60—twice as many as any other single nation. None of this even includes Jared Donaldson, 22, the lone American to qualify for the inaugural Next Gen ATP Finals in 2017, who has been nursing a knee injury since midway through 2018.

"It's an exciting time in American tennis," Blackman says.

- Wayne Coffey

Left to right: Mackenzie McDonald, Reilly Opelka, Frances Tiafoe and Taylor Fritz

Konstantin Anisimov, but is now with Jaime Cortes, a former Top 200 pro from Colombia.

At this year's US Open and beyond, tracking the progress of these ascendant young women will be one of the prominent story lines. These emergent up-and-comers, however, aren't interested in setting timetables or basking in their past glories. Even after becoming the breakout star at Wimbledon, Gauff's focus was completely singular: "I just need to go back to work and keep working hard and get ready for the next couple of tournaments."

That was the same space Anisimova found herself in this past April in Bogota, Colombia, after capturing her first WTA title. At the time, she was the youngest player in the Top 100, and she had become the youngest American woman to win a tour title since Serena Williams in 1999.

"I have no idea about who did what at what age," Anisimova told reporters at Roland Garros. "People tell me and then I just forget after a second. I don't really care about it too much. I'm just, like, in the present."





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TOGETHER FOREVER ONCE MORE

Tennis's most prolific doubles team, the Bryan brothers, is back "to ring out every last drop." **BY CINDY SHMERLER**

he story is as familiar as Aesop's Fables. Back when they were youngsters, getting to the final of almost every tournament they entered, twins Bob and Mike Bryan were not allowed to face each other in singles matches. Mom and dad, Kathy and Wayne, wanted family harmony, and they wanted the boys to be a team; so they insisted the twins take turns defaulting to each other. Some kids might have revolted, but not the Bryans.

"We didn't care," says Mike, the righty and older brother by three minutes. "We were just excited to come home with two shiny silver trophies. We were little trophy hoarders. We had, like, a thousand of them in the room we shared."

Counters Bob, the lefty, "They weren't all shiny and silver, but we did have them in our bedroom and there were a lot of them. They've been replaced by Waterford Crystal professional trophies."

Among their latest is this year's Miami Open prize, surely one of their Top 10 championships of all time—which is saying a lot for a duo that has captured a record 118 titles, including 16 majors. They have claimed the Miami title six times! But since winning the 2014 US Open, their most recent Flushing triumph, the Bryans have overcome struggles that would have marked the end for many teams.

Indeed, the 2019 Miami Open signaled a rebirth that just might be the opening flourish to the coda of their careers.

"Miami was a really emotional win for me," recounts Bob, who sat out the last eight months of the 2018 season because of a hip injury and subsequent hip resurfacing surgery. "I honestly questioned if I would ever play another professional match."

Adds Mike, "Bob and I were a little unsure if we could really win a major tourney again. Nobody had ever played and won a match (at tour level) with an artificial hip; so it seemed a little far-fetched to expect huge results."

But that's almost all the Bryans have done for 30 years, post huge results, from winning the biggest national junior tournaments to taking the NCAAs to capturing Grand Slam tournament titles.

They were on a championship run when Bob suffered his injury. They had won the 2018 Miami Open, their first ATP Masters crown in nearly two years. Grouped with the Monte Carlo title they took home two weeks later and the Madrid final they reached three weeks after that, the Bryans found themselves one match victory from re-ascending to No. 1 in the world—a mere fortnight after their 40th birthdays.

However, Bob injured his hip and was forced to retire in the Madrid Masters final. It was the first time in 1,407 matches together that the Bryans were unable to finish.

Bob's injury, his attempted but unsuccessful rehab, and his surgery last August in Manhattan at the Hospital for Special Surgery took him off tour for the remainder of the season. In his stead, Mike teamed with six different partners, and found magic with fellow American Jack Sock, winning Wimbledon, the US Open and the year-end ATP Finals.

"I really didn't know what to think," says Bob, who was so far ahead of the suggested sixth-month rehab schedule that he considered rejoining Mike for fall tournaments in Vienna and Paris. "When they won Wimbledon, it was a little weird. Then the Open was just too much. It was mind-blowing, just too much to process at the moment.

"I didn't even watch the match," Bob continues, "but I did talk to Mike on the phone the minute they won. I told him, 'You've got bragging rights now.' It was his chance to stick it to me, but he didn't. He was really gracious. I was so happy for him when he hit No. 1."

Mike's success with Sock had an even more bruising effect, since the years from 2015 to 2017 were, relatively speaking, not particularly kind to the brothers. After ending 10 of 12 seasons as the year-end No. 1 team—a record—and winning an astounding 1,067 matches together

144 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org









across more than 20 years, they were suddenly struggling. In 2016, they won just three tournaments together (having bagged at least 10 twice in the previous three seasons), and in 2017, they claimed only two. Their last major championship was the 2014 US Open.

"When a team is playing well, there's a certain amount of respect in the locker room," says Mike. "You get a few extra points out of that feeling alone. And we were starting to lose that feeling."

It was Bob who spoke up first, telling his brother that he wanted to announce their retirement at the 2017 Australian Open and then finish out their illustrious careers at the US Open. He even prepared a statement. But Mike asked him to hold off until the US Open. Bob agreed, but by mid-summer, their on-court relationship was so strained that the brothers were barely speaking.

One of the issues—perhaps the biggest one—was Mike's unhappiness in his marriage of five years.

"We had some pretty honest discussions and I voiced my concerns before the wedding," says Bob, who has three children with his wife, Michelle. "But once he walked down the aisle, that was it. I didn't think he was 100 percent happy, but I'd never tell him. The only thing we both knew was that, on court, where we were going wasn't very good. We weren't strong competitors. We'd go away during matches."

It was days after their semifinal loss at the 2017 US Open, when they were leaving an exhibition in Napa, Calif., that Mike suddenly told his brother that his marriage was over. Instead of going home, Mike moved into Michelle and Bob's beach apartment north of Miami, and the brothers talked for hours each day. Mike also started dating Slovakian model Nadia Murgasova. Suddenly the air felt lighter and

practices became fun again.

The start of the 2018 season was the manifestation of goals Bob and Mike set independently, just before the Australian Open

Already five-time US Open champions, the Bryans have their sights set on winning another major, now that Bob (top, left) is back on court after last year's hip surgery.

(where they were semifinalists). Bob's goals were emotional, ideas such as finally having fun on court again. Mike, on the other hand, wanted to win two majors and return to No. 1 in the world.

Mike accomplished both of his goals in 2018, but ironically, he did so without his brother beside him. Bob had been on track,

reveling in the success they were having in the first third of last season, pre-injury.

There was never really any doubt the Bryans would give 2019 a go. Perhaps the only question was whether it would be their swan song. Both have tentatively talked about the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, though they also have not ruled out retiring at the end of this season. Or next. Bob has mumbled about wanting to spend more time with family, something he got a taste of during his layoff, but he admits that, in some way, "I'm really a road warrior who's not fit for a home life."

No matter what, both brothers say when they do retire, it will be together. "We're a package deal," says Mike.

"We want to shut this thing down on our own terms," says Bob. "I would have retired in a heartbeat if Mike had gotten hurt. It's nice that he [was] willing to wait for me."

Mike: "You want to ring out every last drop. You don't want to leave anything on the table. It's kind of like an addiction. We want to strive for the highest level. If we fall short, so be it."

Their legacy as all-time greats secured, they could only fall but so far. Their bond as strong as ever, they may reach new heights still.

"Mike is someone I want to talk to first thing every day," says Bob, who hopes that his brother will eventually settle across the street from him in Sunny Isles, Fla. "No matter what, we will always be a team."

146 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org

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Getting the Hang of It

John McEnroe found his stride as a Grand Slam tournament singles champion at the 1979 US Open. BY JOHN FEINSTEIN

OHN MCENROE was an 18-year-old amateur, just out of high school, when he burst onto the international tennis scene in 1977, making it through Wimbledon qualifying and all the way to the Wimbledon men's singles semifinals. He had made his Grand Slam tournament debut just a couple of weeks before at the French Open, losing in singles to Australia's Phil Dent in the second round before going on to win the mixed doubles title with his lifelong pal Mary Carillo.

As luck would have it, when McEnroe reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, his opponent—again—was Dent, a player whose best surface was always grass. Unseeded at the French Open, where he went on to the semifinals, Dent, at Wimbledon, was the No. 13 seed. McEnroe, before heading out to play and facing the 13th tour-level match of his career, told Carillo: "If I can't beat this guy, I might as well hang it up."

To say that McEnroe was impatient as a rising young tennis star is a vast understatement. It is largely because he promised his mother he would go to college that he managed to stay at Stanford for the 1977-78 school year before turning pro.

Fortunately for tennis, McEnroe did beat Dent at 1977 Wimbledon and didn't hang it up, although it was that match in which McEnroe first began to earn his bad-boy reputation, after several angry exchanges with the chair umpire.

All these years later, McEnroe still hasn't hung it up ... not really. He remains an immeasurable figure in the game, his presence in the broadcast booth pulling in viewers in much the way his deft play once did.

Such play, in turn, is what made McEnroe an undeniable champion at the US Open for the first time 40 years ago.

Jimmy Connors defeated McEnroe in four tense sets in the 1977 Wimbledon semifinals and, almost as a reaffirmation, stopped McEnroe in straight sets in the 1978 US Open semifinals.

But a year later, a 20-year-old McEnroe found himself squaring off against Connors in a major championship semifinal yet again. One can almost hear McEnroe telling Carillo that night, "If I can't beat this guy...."

McEnroe beat him—in straight sets. It was the first time since 1973 that Connors had failed to make the US Open final.

It was the first time since 1950 that all four men's singles semifinalists were Americans. Vitas Gerulaitis beat Roscoe Tanner in the other semifinal, meaning that in the second year of the US Open being played in Queens at the USTA National Tennis Center, two kids *from* Queens would play for the title.

McEnroe has often said he recognized the irony of the matchup: The tennis world wanted another Connors-Bjorn Borg final, a repeat of 1978. But Tanner upset top-seeded Borg in the quarterfinals, and then McEnroe whipped defending champion Connors.

"It wasn't that the crowd was against either one of us," McEnroe said later. "They were against the *match*."

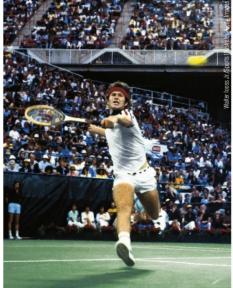
Gerulaitis was five years older than McEnroe and already had won a Grand Slam tournament title two years earlier at the Australian Open. But Gerulaitis was no match for McEnroe at the US Open, losing 7-5, 6-3, 6-3, making McEnroe the youngest men's singles champion in the tournament since Pancho Gonzalez's victory at Forest Hills in 1948. Coincidentally, McEnroe wasn't the only rising American to win an Open singles crown that year: 16-year-old Tracy Austin stunned four-time champion Chris Evert in the women's final.

Playing Gerulaitis in his first major championship singles final wasn't easy for McEnroe; he had grown up idolizing Gerulaitis—not just because he was an excellent tennis player, but because Gerulaitis was flat out cool.

"John did idolize Vitas," said Carillo. "We all did. But by then, [John] was a better player than Vitas because he was a better player than

148 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org









anyone—except possibly Borg. I think once John beat Connors, he knew he was going to win the tournament. But I know having to face Vitas in that situation wasn't something he liked having to do."

After his win at the US Open, McEnroe clearly became Borg's No. 1 rival for tennis supremacy. The two played their classic Wimbledon final nine months after McEnroe's victory over Gerulaitis, and then McEnroe earned some measure of revenge when he ended Borg's hopes for a Grand Slam by beating him in five sets to retain his US Open title.

McEnroe won the first two sets that evening, and then Borg won the next two. This was at the height of McEnroe's so-called "McBrat" period, and it seemed as if everyone inside Louis Armstrong Stadium was on their feet cheering for Borg after he won the fourth set.

McEnroe never said a word to anyone during the fifth set and won it, 6-4.

Afterward, when asked how he felt, hearing almost the entire crowd cheer for someone from Sweden when they were less than 15 minutes from where McEnroe had grown up, he shook his head and said, "I felt as if my whole body was going to fall off."

Later, sitting alone in the locker room, McEnroe admitted the cheers for Borg had hurt. "I understand it, but I don't understand it," he said. "I

get why they love Bjorn. But this is the United States Open, and last I looked, I'm from the United States."

McEnroe ended Borg's five-year run at Wimbledon the next season, then beat him fairly easily (four sets) to win a third consecutive US Open. Borg left the court that night before the awards ceremony, went straight to his car and never played top-tier tennis again.

McEnroe went on to win Wimbledon twice more and won a fourth US Open crown—his final major victory—in 1984. That year, he defeated Connors in a taut five-set semifinal—the nightcap on the day that launched Super Saturday at the US Open—ending at 11:16 p.m. McEnroe then came back the next afternoon to hammer Ivan Lendl in the final in straight sets.

In the post-match media session, the late, great *New York Post* columnist Maury Allen asked McEnroe the first question: "John, can you explain how you could play five sets until almost midnight against Connors and then come back today to play so well?"

McEnroe grinned. Allen had been the official scorer two nights earlier across the street at Shea Stadium when Mets ace Dwight Gooden

The legend of John McEnroe was already starting to take shape when he won the 1979 US Open, having seen controversy with Ilie Nastase (far left) and then defeating fellow New Yorker Vitas Gerulaitis (left).

had given up just one hit against the Cubs—a roller down the third baseline that Mets third baseman Ray Knight couldn't pick up in the fifth inning.

McEnroe, a lifelong Mets fan, answered Allen succinctly: "First, you explain how you ruled that ball a hit on Friday night."

That quickness and that knowledge of sports—actually of almost everything—has helped make McEnroe the most popular tennis analyst in the world. He has gone from booed to beloved, something he predicted years ago.

"When I'm old and beatable, I think they'll cheer for me," he said during his reign at No. 1 in the world. "That's the way sports works. When you're young and upcoming, they love you. When you're old and fading, they love you. In between, when you're on top, they tend to root against you."

It has been 40 years since McEnroe launched his career as a seventime major champion by beating his nemesis, Connors, and his buddy, Gerulaitis, on back-to-back nights in Flushing. McEnroe is 60 now, a legend as a Hall of Fame player and an icon as an announcer.

On the one hand, there's no doubt that weekend in 1979 launched him to greatness.

On the other hand, we should all be thankful he beat Phil Dent in that Wimbledon quarterfinal in 1977 and didn't hang it up.

50 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org

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WHEN THE ROCKET SOARED

A half century ago at the US Open, Rod Laver became the only player in history to capture the Grand Slam twice. No man has completed the Grand Slam since.

BY JOEL DRUCKER

Fifty years ago this August, a decade like none other neared the end of its final year. The '60s had begun seemingly in black and white. America's patriarchal president, Dwight Eisenhower, had passed the torch to the youngest man ever elected to the office, John Kennedy. Soon enough, a whirlwind, the decade a swirl of politics, dissent, war, music, youth, civil rights and much more. The

world had gone Technicolor.

Tennis had moved forward, too, brilliantly so in 1968. That was the year the sport finally went open, amateurs and pros at last able to compete together. Yet the question remained: Who was going to carry big-time tennis into further prominence? At the initial US Open, it was Arthur Ashe, the first African American male to win a Grand Slam tournament title. At the second US Open, the answer came in the form of an unassuming man from the Australian countryside. In July 1969, man landed on the moon. In a pleasing confluence, the tennis supernova of that time was nicknamed "Rocket." This was Rod Laver.

Having turned pro after leading Australia to the 1962 Davis Cup championship, Laver, along with such great players as Ken Rosewall and Pancho Gonzalez, had been banned from prestigious events such as Wimbledon and the U.S. Championships (the US Open's name prior to '68). With open tennis now present,

Laver and his fellow barnstormers felt liberated and eager. "We were keen now to show the world how well we could play," said Laver. Having won the first open Wimbledon in July 1968, Laver was clearly the world's No. 1 player.

Permit a flashback to 1938. Don Budge, a great American who at the time was the No. 1

Contract of the International Tents that in Fame

On the soggy turf at West Side Tennis Club, Rod Laver relied on his spikes to help lift him to victory in the rain-delayed final against countryman Tony Roche.

player in the world, made a plan. Budge would trek to Australia to commence and accomplish what by year's end he'd dub the "Grand Slam," an unprecedented calendar year sweep of the Australian, French, Wimbledon and U.S. championships. Laver had also done this, back in 1962 as an amateur. Then he'd gone pro. But as '69 began, unlike Budge, Laver's approach was hardly methodical.

"There was no plan," Laver said years later.

"I just figured I would play the Aussie. After all, with open tennis having been declared in March '68, the '69 Aussie would be the first Australian Open; so why not give it a go?"

Give it a go. Such was the humbleness of Laver. Like Apollo 11, Laver in 1969 would soar to incredible heights. And similar to those

astronauts, he would do it by repeatedly demonstrating what the writer Tom Wolfe dubbed "the right stuff"—an ability to perform superbly under pressure with little fuss or desire for fanfare.

Laver's 1969 is arguably the greatest single year a tennis player has ever had. Once again, he would win all four majors, 18 total titles in 32 tournaments, compiling a match record of 106-14. But unlike in '62, this time he would do so versus every possible contender. Of the 26 matches Laver won at the majors in '69, 16 were against a future Hall of Famer.

So here was Laver, city to city, match to match, point to point. "That's really all you can do," he said, "is just play one point at a time."

Like when he was down two sets to love in the second round of 1969 Roland Garros versus Dick Crealy, a streaky Aussie. Or the next month, a similar comeback in the second round at Wimbledon against Premjit Lall.

As cucumber-cool as Laver had approached his homeland major, everything about the Australian Open that year was red-hot, from

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 153





I RAN TO GREET TONY [ROCHE] AND LEAPT OVER THE NET. WHAT A JOURNEY IT HAD BEEN THAT YEAR. THE WONDERFUL **AYERS I HAD BEATEN MADE THAT 1969 GRAND** SLAM EVEN MORE SPECIAL." - ROD LAVER

temperatures that exceeded 100 degrees to tough matches versus eventual Hall of Fame inductees Roy Emerson, Fred Stolle and, in the semis, an epic against Tony Roche that Laver won, 7-5, 22-20, 9-11, 1-6, 6-3. "You get through these things and you move on," said Laver. That crucible passed, Laver beat another Hall of Famer, Andres Gimeno, in the final in straight sets to capture the inaugural Aussie Open.

The next major championship of 1969 was held at Roland Garros, which Laver closed out with a victory over Rosewall, calling it the best clay court tennis of his career.

Anyone winning the first two majors today makes tennis highly visible in all corners of the globe. That was hardly the case for Laver in '69.

"No one really talked about the Grand Slam much at all," said Laver, whose world-leading prize money total in 1968 had been just over \$70,000. "Then again, no one talked much about tennis at all. We were used to that by then."

In other words, the Slam campaign of '69 remained heavily subdued, far less about external pressure and more centered on the tough task of getting past one opponent after another. After overcoming Lall at Wimbledon, Laver had labored hard. Stan Smith extended him to five sets; Ashe took him to four. In the final, versus fellow Aussie John Newcombe, Laver found himself down, 1-4, in the third, two games from a two-sets-to-one deficit. A dazzling backhand on a big point turned it all around. "It was amazing how he could come up with

these incredible shots at those key stages," said Newcombe. Laver was now one US Open championship away from the incredible.

However, added to the mix for the US Open was that Laver's wife, Mary, was pregnant. Her due date: September 7—the scheduled date

of the US Open final. For some, this would make the tennis difficult. But for Laver, his concern for Mary kept him from fretting too much about the seven matches it would take to win this last major. Discreetly holed up in the Manhattan apartment of a longstanding friend of tennis, actor Charlton Heston, Laver spent evenings compulsively rewrapping his grips and listening to music.

build, Laver made himself less available. Fame was imminent. But it could wait. The here and now were some very rough opponents. As in Australia, the last four would eventually be enshrined in Newport. Dennis Ralston relished the chance to topple the king and took a two-sets-to-one lead in their fourth-round battle. In those pre-tiebreaker days, though, players took a 10-minute break at the end of the third set. For Laver, that meant mates Stolle and Emerson telling him to throw his toss higher. Laver swept through the next two sets. Next up was the omnipresent Emerson, the man Laver had beaten in three Grand Slam tournament finals in '62. Here again, a tight battle, Laver squeaking past "Emmo," 4-6, 8-6, 13-11, 6-4. Laver's straight-set win in the semis, 8-6, 6-3, 14-12, unseated the defending

champion, Ashe.

Right: To honor

Rod Laver (seated) and other greats,

Roger Federer

created the Laver Cup, which pits top

European players

against their counterparts from

the rest of the world.

It was a September of delays. First, the final. Amid a massive rainstorm, it was not played until Tuesday, September 9. Meanwhile, in California, Mary's delivery date was pushed back, too. Not until September 27 would Ricky Laver enter

the world. Amid all that, Laver was able to earn a four-set victory over Roche to reach an incredible height: two calendar-year Grand Slams. But this one was far more rewarding.

By the end of 1969, Laver had earned \$124,000 and become the first tennis player ever to crack six figures. As the Rocket had soared, so had tennis. Fueled heavily by the brilliance of Laver's '69 campaign, the decade closed with tennis growing in a major way.

As the '60s segued into the '70s, there was no way Laver or anyone else could imagine how much bigger tennis would become. "I was glad to be a part of the sport as it changed," said Laver, "but you don't really think of those things when they're happening. All you can think about is the next match you've got to play."

When the media crush at last started to

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PATHWAY to the PROS

For 40 years, the USTA's professional tennis circuit has been paving the way for promising players to compete at the sport's highest levels.

BY RICK RENNERT

When Naomi Osaka claimed the world No. 1 ranking this past January, just three months after celebrating her 21st birthday, she appeared to have reached the top of the women's game unusually fast. Her climb, however, was years in the making. Choosing to bypass junior tournaments entirely, she entered her first professional tournament in October 2011, just as she was

turning 14 years old, and lost in the first qualifying round of an ITF pro circuit event in Montego Bay, Jamaica. She returned to competitive play five months later and, from then on, traveled regularly on the most extensive developmental tennis circuit in the world, the USTA Pro Circuit. Jackson, Miss. ... Raleigh, N.C. ... Landisville, Pa. ... Sumter, S.C. ... Evansville, Ind. ... Those were the initial stops on Osaka's itinerary as she entered the qualifying draw at each pro circuit tournament and advanced to a main draw for the first time in July 2012 at Evansville. Continuing onward to events in New Orleans, Amelia Island, Fla., Gainesville, Fla., and Florence, S.C., she ended her first full year on the professional circuit with a modest 5-3 record in main draw matches and a ranking of No. 1,028. There was still plenty of work to be done.

As we now know, Osaka was ready for the challenge. She improved her game slowly but surely over the next two years, while playing principally on the USTA Pro Circuit, competing in more than 20 tournaments across the U.S. She reached her first final in 2013 and another in 2014. By early 2015, she had amassed enough professional ranking points to

Whitney Osuigwe

enter bigger tournaments. In 2016, she broke into the Top 100 and started competing full-time against the world's highest-ranked women on the WTA tour. In 2018, she won her first title at any level, defeating three Top 20 players in succession to become champion at Indian Wells. Capturing the US Open women's singles crown later in the year sent her into the Top 10 for the first time, while winning this year's Australian Open title lifted her all the way up to the No. 1 ranking.

Osaka is hardly the first USTA Pro Circuit player to achieve Grand Slam glory. Since being established four decades ago, the USTA Pro Circuit has seen its graduates win more than 50 major championships, including dozens of US Open crowns. Pete Sampras, with five titles, heads the list of US Open singles champions who once played on the USTA Pro Circuit; followed by Andre Agassi, Justine Henin and Patrick Rafter, with two titles apiece; while USTA Pro Circuit alumni Marin Cilic, Lindsay Davenport, Angelique Kerber, Flavia Pennetta, Juan Martin del Potro, Andy Murray, Andy Roddick, Maria Sharapova, Sloane Stephens, Samantha Stosur and Osaka have each claimed one

156 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org



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ITF WORLD TENNIS TOUR JUNIORS

Playing in professional tennis's entry-, mid- and upper-level tournaments can make a world of difference to up-and-coming pros and rising junior stars who aspire to reach the elite levels of competition.

US Open crown. US Open doubles champions such as Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan, Bethanie Mattek-Sands, Kristina Mladenovic, Jamie Murray, Jack Sock, and CoCo Vandeweghe are also graduates of the USTA Pro Circuit; as are current stars Victoria Azarenka, Kevin Anderson, Ashleigh Barty, Kiki Bertens, Grigor Dimitrov, Simona Halep, John Isner, Madison Keys, Karen Khachanov, Petra Kvitova, Garbiñe Muguruza, Kei Nishikori, Karolina Pliskova, Milos Raonic, Elina Svitolina, Dominic Thiem, Caroline Wozniacki and Alexander Zverev. Each year, more than half of the men and women entered in the US Open singles draws have played on the USTA Pro Circuit.

Formed in 1979 to provide promising young players with additional competitive opportunities on American soil, the USTA Pro Circuit can be a springboard to success, much like the Single-A, Double-A and Triple-A minor leagues function for major league baseball. In 2019, the USTA Pro Circuit is awarding more than \$4 million in total prize money across a wide range of playing levels—from \$25,000 tournaments for high-achieving junior players, collegiate players and beginning pros to \$125,000 events for players on the verge of ATP Tour and WTA competition. The overall tournament structure has been carefully arranged so that players can make their way up the competitive pathway at their own pace.

Whitney Osuigwe, 17, began her pursuit of tennis glory while growing up in Bradenton, Fla., and has good reason to believe she is on the right track. Two years ago, she won the French Open girls' singles title, held the No. 1 world junior ranking for nine months and was named the ITF Junior World Champion for 2017. Last year, she concentrated on growing her game on the USTA Pro Circuit, and that's exactly what happened. Starting out 2018 with a WTA ranking of No. 1,120, she claimed her first pro title in Tyler, Texas, and reached the quarterfinals or better at eight more USTA Pro Circuit tournaments to improve her position by more than 900 places.

This year, Osuigwe has picked up where she left off. She made her Grand Slam main draw debut at the Australian Open in January, recorded her first WTA tour-level win in March by defeating Naomi Osaka's younger sister, Mari, at the Miami Open and then captured her second USTA Pro Circuit title in April, at Charlottesville, Va., to become the youngest woman ranked in the Top 150.

Another former French Open junior champion, Tommy Paul, 22, began testing his game on the USTA Pro Circuit when he was 15

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 157





and training at the USTA National Campus, won his sixth USTA Pro Circuit singles title at Sarasota in April and reached the final at Tallahassee the following week to break into the Top 150 for the first time.

For American players such as Osuigwe and Paul, the USTA Pro Circuit spares them the expense of having to travel abroad to earn ranking points. In 2019, the USTA Pro Circuit features more than 100 tournaments—five times as many events as there are WTA and ATP Tour tournaments in the U.S. Not only do these pro circuit events (held in nearly half of the 50 states) bring the excitement and intensity of professional tennis to cities and towns in the U.S. that otherwise would not have the opportunity to host a pro tournament, they also play a vital role in helping the USTA carry out its mission: "to promote and develop the growth of tennis."

New this year, following extensive research that showed the financial pressures facing most up-and-coming professional tennis players and













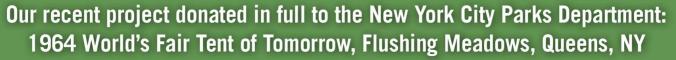
years old, playing in three consecutive events in Florida in early 2013 before returning to junior tennis for the remainder of the year. Junior tournaments continued to be his main focus through 2015, when he took the boys' singles title at Roland Garros, was a singles quarterfinalist at junior Wimbledon and advanced to the boys' singles final at the US Open to peak at No. 3 in the world junior rankings. Since then, he has been playing primarily in the U.S. on the USTA Pro Circuit and has been moving steadily up the ATP rankings. Paul, who was born in Vorhees, N.J., raised in Greenville, N.C., and began the year living in Orlando

the amount of time it takes for them to break into the Top 100, the International Tennis Federation (the world governing body of tennis, of which the USTA is a member), the ATP Tour and the WTA have worked together to optimize the structure of men's and women's professional tennis. Significantly enhancing the player pathway by developing a clear and fair progression for talented players, the structural reforms provide additional competitive opportunities along with the rewards needed for players to transition through the ITF World Tennis Tour in their quest to compete on the major pro tours.

An added benefit of the optimized professional tennis structure is that it enables participating nations to offer a more localized, more affordable circuit structure to help keep down costs for the players and tournament organizers. For the USTA Pro Circuit in 2019, that has resulted in a more than 10 percent increase in events over recent years. There are 1,600 ITF World Tennis Tour tournaments slated to take place around the world this year, and the U.S., with its schedule of more than 100 ITF World Tennis Tour tournaments, is hosting more of these events than any other nation. Add to that total the more than 200 top-level junior events in the U.S., and it is clear that when it comes to making the transition to a pro playing career, America remains a land of opportunity.

158 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org











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2018 women's champion Novak Djokovic > 2018 men's champion

WOMEN

Singles

Amanda Anisimova	18
Victoria Azarenka	17
Ashleigh Barty	16
Belinda Bencic	17
Kiki Bertens	17
Danielle Collins	18
Caroline Garcia	
Julia Goerges	178
Simona Halep	
Sofia Kenin	
Angelique Kerber	16
Madison Keys	
Johanna Konta	
Anett Kontaveit	18
Petra Kvitova	

Petra Martic180	
Elise Mertens180	
Garbiñe Muguruza176	
Naomi Osaka164	
Karolina Pliskova175	
Aryna Sabalenka175	
Anastasija Sevastova178	
Maria Sharapova176	
Sloane Stephens169	
Elina Svitolina172	
Marketa Vondrousova178	
Wang Qiang178	
Serena Williams162	
Venus Williams166	
Caroline Wozniacki	

Doubles

Fimea Babos/Kristina Mladenovic	206
atisha Chan/Chan Hao-Ching	
Hsieh Su-Wei/Barbora Strycova	206
Barbora Krejcikova/Katerina Siniakova	206
Nicole Melichar/Kveta Peschke	206
lise Mertens/Arvna Sabalenka	206

Wheelchair

Diede de Groot	210
Yui Kamiji	210
Dana Mathewson	211
Aniek van Koot	211

MEN

Singles

Kevin Anderson	193
Felix Auger-Aliassime	
Nikoloz Basilashvili	
Roberto Bautista Agut	198
Mateo Berrettini	
Marin Cilic	194
Borna Coric	198
Grigor Dimitrov	205
Novak Djokovic	
Roger Federer	186
Fabio Fognini	
Taylor Fritz	205
David Goffin	
John Isner	193
Karen Khachanov	

Nick Kyrgios	205
Daniil Medvedev	197
Gael Monfils	198
Rafael Nadal	184
Kei Nishikori	190
_ucas Pouille	203
Sam Querrey	203
Milos Raonic	198
Diego Schwartzman	203
Denis Shapovalov	200
Dominic Thiem	186
Frances Tiafoe	205
Stefanos Tsitsipas	188
Stan Wawrinka	194
Alexander Zverev	

Doubles

BOD Bryan/ Mike Bryan	209
Juan Sebastian Cabal/Robert Farah	209
Kevin Krawietz/Andreas Mies	209
Lukasz Kubot/Marcelo Melo	209
Pierre-Hugues Herbert/Nicolas Mahut	209
Jean-Julien Rojer/Horia Tecau	209

Wheelchair

Dylan Alcott	211
Bryan Barten	211
Gustavo Fernandez	210
Alfie Hewett	210
Stephane Houdet	210
Shingo Kunieda	210
Andy Lapthorne	211
David Wagner	211

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN **161**

Serena Williams

The 2018 WTA Comeback Player of the Year, returning from maternity leave to reach the Wimbledon and US Open finals—she returned to the Wimbledon final again this year—Serena Williams is arguably the greatest female tennis player in the history of the sport. Her record 23 Open Era Grand Slam tournament singles crowns, including six at the US Open, and her 319 weeks at No. 1 provide ready proof. But another measure of Williams's legendary stature in the game is her collection of WTA honors. Williams was the first player to receive each of the tour's five major player awards: Player of the Year, Comeback Player of the Year, Most Impressive Newcomer, Most Improved Player and Doubles Team of the Year (the latter shared with her sister Venus).

BORN: 9/26/81, Saginaw, Michigan RESIDENCE: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida HEIGHT: 5'9" • PLAYS: Right-handed



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Ashleigh Barty

With her Roland Garros women's singles crown in June, Ashleigh Barty became Australia's first Grand Slam tournament singles titlist since Samantha Stosur won the 2011 US Open. Barty, Australia's first champion of indigenous heritage since Evonne Goolagong, followed up her French Open success with the title at Birmingham, which took her to No. 1, where she joined Goolagong as the only Aussie women to be top-ranked. Barty captured her first major title by winning US Open women's doubles (with CoCo Vandeweghe) last year. This spring, she took home the Miami title and led Australia to its first Fed Cup Final since 1993. Burnout pushed Barty away from tennis and toward a season of professional cricket just five years ago.

BORN: 4/24/96, Ipswich, Australia RESIDENCE: Ipswich, Australia HEIGHT: 5'5" • PLAYS: Right-handed



AUS

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
AUS	8-6	QF	3R	3R	-	-	1R	1R	1R
RG	9-5	W	2R	1R	-	-	1R	2R	1R
WIM	5-4	4R	3R	1R	-	-	-	-	1R
US	6-4		4R	3R	-	-	1R	2R	-

162 2019 US OPEN





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Naomi Osaka

The first Grand Slam tournament singles champion from Japan, Naomi Osaka is the first woman in 18 years—one of three this entire century—to win her first two majors back-to-back, adding this year's Australian Open to the US Open crown she claimed last September. She took the US Open title with one of the most dominating performances of the past two decades in Flushing, yielding just 34 games. While winning the US Open vaulted her into the Top 10, the Aussie Open title pushed her to No. 1, making her the first Asian player to hold the top ranking in singles. Osaka has proven herself a great front-runner, establishing a tour record with her 61 consecutive match victories when winning the first set of three-set contests.

BORN: 10/16/97, Osaka, Japan RESIDENCE: Boca Raton, Florida HEIGHT: 5'11" • PLAYS: Right-handed



JPN

	Career	19	18	17	16
AUS	13-3	W	4R	2R	3R
RG	6-4	3R	3R	1R	3R
WIM	4-3	1R	3R	3R	-
US	11-2		W	3R	3R



Simona Halep

From her first singles crown six years ago through her Wimbledon title six weeks before this year's US Open, Simona Halep has been one of the winningest players in women's tennis since 2013. Indeed, she is the only woman to rank among the Top 10 in WTA match wins each of the past six years. She was last season's WTA Player of the Year, finishing at No. 1 during a run of 48 consecutive weeks atop the ladder (64 overall). Halep's Roland Garros championship last season was a turning point for a player capable of winning all four majors. She has reached at least the quarterfinals in 10 Grand Slam tournament appearances across the last five years, more than every woman except Serena Williams (13).

BORN: 9/27/91, Constanta, Romania RESIDENCE: Constanta, Romania HEIGHT: 5'6" • PLAYS: Right-handed



 Career
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 18
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164 2019 US OPEN

AUS

RG

WIM US













Venus Williams

With her first-round match, two-time US Open champion Venus Williams equals Martina Navratilova's record for most years playing women's singles at the Open. The 2019 US Open is Williams's 21st. Already, she owns the Open Era mark for most Grand Slam tournaments played, with this year's US Open being her 84th major—11 ahead of the next-nearest woman, her sister Serena. Venus has proven herself a perennial factor on the tour, even though her most recent singles title before the start of this year's US Open Series came at Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei, in February 2016. She was a quarterfinalist this year at Indian Wells, where she notched her first Top 5 match win (d. Petra Kvitova) since the 2017 WTA Finals.

BORN: 6/17/80, Lynwood, California RESIDENCE: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida HEIGHT: 6'1" • PLAYS: Right-handed





Angelique Kerber

Across the last five seasons, Angelique Kerber has claimed more major singles championships than any woman but Serena Williams—and two of Kerber's three Grand Slam tournament crowns came by defeating Williams in the finals. Kerber needs only a Roland Garros title, to go along with last year's Wimbledon championship and her 2016 Australian Open and US Open titles, to complete a career Grand Slam. On the strength of her 2016 season, Kerber joined Steffi Graf as the only German women to hold the WTA year-end No.1 ranking, Kerber's 34 weeks at the top surpassing the totals of four Hall of Famers, as well as active stars such as Maria Sharapova and Venus Williams. Kerber was runner-up at Indian Wells in March.

BORN: 1/18/88, Bremen, Germany RESIDENCE: Puszczykowo, Poland HEIGHT: 5'8" • PLAYS: Left-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	08	07
AUS	29-11	4R	SF	4R	W	1R	4R	4R	3R	1R	3R	1R	2R	-
RG	17-12	1R	QF	1R	1R	3R	4R	4R	QF	1R	2R	-	1R	1R
WIM	31-11	2R	W	4R	RU	3R	QF	2R	SF	1R	3R	-1	1R	1R
IIC	25-10		20	1D	IAI	20	20	4D	4D	CE	1D	20		1D

166 2019 US OPEN



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Sloane **Stephens**

Across the past couple of seasons, Sloane Stephens has been practically Miss America for U.S. tennis. Her 2017 US Open crown is the most recent major championship singles title for an American. Since June 2018, she has been the top-ranked U.S. player in the women's game. This past April, her two straight-sets victories in Fed Cup preserved Team USA's place among the elite World Group, with a chance for an unprecedented 19th championship in 2020. When it's time for the biggest events in tennis, Stephens shows up big. In her debut at the WTA Finals to close the 2018 season, Stephens advanced to the final, her fourth of the year. All four events were among the most prestigious tournaments on the WTA calendar.

BORN: 3/20/93, Plantation, Florida RESIDENCE: Fort Lauderdale, Florida **HEIGHT:** 5'7" • **PLAYS:** Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
AUS	12-7	4R	1R	-	1R	1R	4R	SF	2R	-
RG	24-8	QF	RU	-	3R	4R	4R	4R	4R	1R
WIM	12-8	3R	1R	1R	3R	3R	1R	QF	3R	-
US	19-6		QF	W	-	1R	2R	4R	3R	31
	RG WIM	AUS 12-7 RG 24-8 WIM 12-8	AUS 12-7 4R RG 24-8 0F WIM 12-8 3R	AUS 12-7 4R 1R RG 24-8 0F RU WIM 12-8 3R 1R	AUS 12-7 4R 1R - RG 24-8 0F RU - WIM 12-8 3R 1R 1R	AUS 12-7 4R 1R - 1R RG 24-8 0F RU - 3R WIM 12-8 3R 1R 1R 3R	AUS 12-7 4R 1R - 1R 1R RG 24-8 0F RU - 3R 4R WIM 12-8 3R 1R 1R 3R 3R	AUS 12-7 4R 1R - 1R 1R 4R RG 24-8 0F RU - 3R 4R 4R WIM 12-8 3R 1R 1R 3R 3R 1R	AUS 12-7 4R 1R - 1R 1R 4R SF RG 24-8 0F RU - 3R 4R 4R 4R WIM 12-8 3R 1R 1R 3R 3R 1R 0F	AUS 12-7 4R 1R - 1R 1R 4R SF 2R RG 24-8 0F RU - 3R 4R 4R 4R 4R WIM 12-8 3R 1R 1R 3R 3R 1R 0F 3R



Petra Kvitova

A two-time Wimbledon champion, Petra Kvitova last year led the WTA in singles crowns, collecting five titles. She was the lone woman in 2018 to win championships on clay, grass and hard courts, joining Serena Williams as the only women to achieve that feat twice in the past 10 years, with Kvitova also doing it in 2011. Her 27 total singles titles at the start of this year's US Open Series, including Sydney in January and Stuttgart in April, are fifth-best among active players. Kvitova has claimed at least one crown each of the last nine years. Only Caroline Wozniacki has a longer active streak of championship success. Kvitova is without equal, however, in having her peers honor her with the tour sportsmanship award the past six years in a row.

BORN: 3/8/90 Bilovec, Czech Republic RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco HEIGHT: 6'0" • PLAYS: Left-handed



		Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	08
	AUS	20-10	RU	1R	-	2R	3R	1R	2R	SF	QF	2R	1R	-
2	RG	23-10	-	3R	2R	3R	4R	3R	3R	SF	4R	1R	-	4R
III III	WIM	33-10	4R	1R	2R	2R	3R	W	QF	QF	W	SF	1R	1R
doug	US	25-11		3R	QF	4R	QF	3R	3R	4R	1R	3R	4R	1R

2019 US OPEN 169

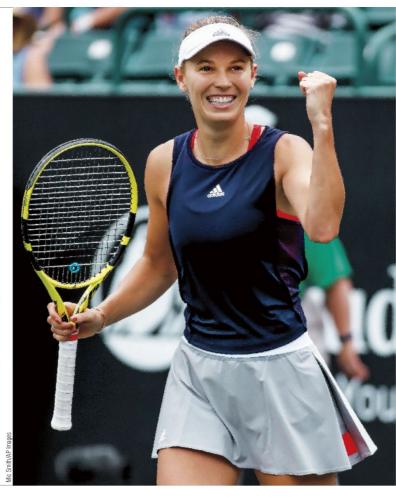
Caroline Wozniacki

A little more than seven years after she first rose to No. 1 in the world, Caroline Wozniacki won her first Grand Slam tournament singles title, the 2018 Australian Open, becoming the third woman in WTA rankings history to capture her first major after earning the No. 1 ranking. The triumph Down Under was one of three championships for Wozniacki last year, and it took her back to No. 1 for the first time in six years, setting a record for the longest period between stints atop the rankings. Off-court highlights have overshadowed Wozniacki's play this season; she married former NBA all-star David Lee in mid-June. But nine weeks prior, she was runner-up at Charleston, her second final in seven events, along with her Beijing title last September.

BORN: 7/11/90, Odense, Denmark RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco HEIGHT: 5'10" • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	80	07
AUS	34-11	3R	W	3R	1R	2R	3R	4R	QF	SF	4R	3R	4R	7
RG	21-12	1R	4R	QF	-	2R	1R	2R	3R	3R	QF	3R	3R	1R
WIM	25-13	3R	2R	4R	1R	4R	4R	2R	1R	4R	4R	4R	3R	2R
IIS	36-12		2R	2R	SF	2R	RII	3R	1R	SF	SF	RH	4R	2R



Madison Keys

Known to hit the fastest groundstrokes in tennis—women's and men's—Madison Keys is beginning to realize her championship potential. She is the only woman to have reached the semifinals in the past two US Opens. Indeed, only three women have advanced to more Grand Slam tournament semis than Keys across the last five seasons. And while those three—Serena Williams, Angelique Kerber and Simona Halep—have all won majors, Keys proved herself capable of joining their company as runner-up in the 2017 US Open. She took another step in her development this past spring when she took the title at Charleston. It was her first tournament championship since Stanford in 2017, but more importantly, her first clay court crown.

BORN: 2/17/95, Rock Island, Illinois RESIDENCE: Orlando, Florida HEIGHT: 5'10" • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
AUS	18-7	4R	QF	-	4R	SF	2R	3R	1R	-
RG	16-7	QF	SF	2R	4R	3R	1R	2R	-	-
WIM	15-7	2R	3R	2R	4R	QF	3R	3R	-	-
US	19-7		SF	RU	4R	4R	2R	1R	-	2F

170 2019 US OPEN



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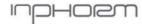
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Kiki Bertens

The WTA's Most Improved Player for 2018, Kiki Bertens was one of the tour's winningest through the first half of this season, climbing to a career-best No. 4 ranking. She won crowns at St. Petersburg and Madrid, and nearly became the first woman this year to claim a title on home soil by getting to the final at 's-Hertogenbosch. Only two women had won more matches this season than Bertens by the start of the US Open Series. At that, she was just two behind leader Ashleigh Barty. Bertens is in contention to lead the WTA in Top 10 match wins for a second consecutive season. Her 12 such victories topped the list in 2018, and through Wimbledon, she was only two behind 2019 leader Belinda Bencic.

BORN: 12/10/91, Wateringen, Netherlands RESIDENCE: Wateringen, Netherlands HEIGHT: 6'0" • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	
AUS	4-7	2R	3R	1R	1R	2R	1R	1R	-	
RG	12-8	2R	3R	2R	SF	1R	4R	1R	1R	
WIM	9-7	3R	QF	1R	3R	1R	-	1R	2R	
IIC	1-7		2D	1D	1D	20	1D	1D	20	



Elina Svitolina

The reigning WTA Finals champion, Elina Svitolina has been among the elite players in women's tennis for a few years. She led the tour in singles crowns in 2017, and only Petra Kvitova claimed more titles last season. Entering the 2017 US Open at No. 4 in the world, Svitolina had a chance to get to No. 1, but lost in the fourth round. This season marks her first time advancing deep into the second week in at least two Grand Slam tournaments in the same season, dispelling talk that she underperforms in the majors. Svitolina began 2019 by reaching the quarterfinals at the Australian Open, losing to eventual champion Naomi Osaka. Svitolina won the girls' singles championship at Roland Garros in 2010 and was runner-up at Junior Wimbledon in 2012.

BORN: 9/12/94, Odessa, Ukraine RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco HEIGHT: 5'9" • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
AUS	15-7	QF	QF	3R	2R	3R	3R	1R	-
RG	16-7	3R	3R	QF	4R	QF	2R	2R	$= \frac{1}{2}$
WIM	10-7	SF	1R	4R	2R	2R	1R	1R	- i
US	11-7		4R	4R	3R	3R	1R	2R	1R

172 2019 US OPEN





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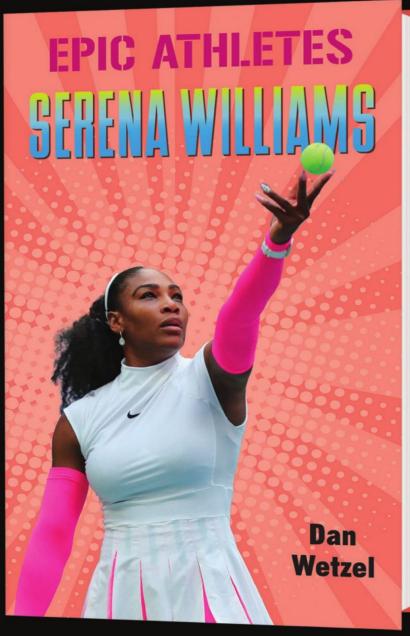
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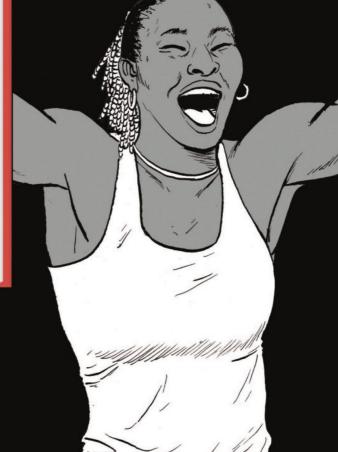
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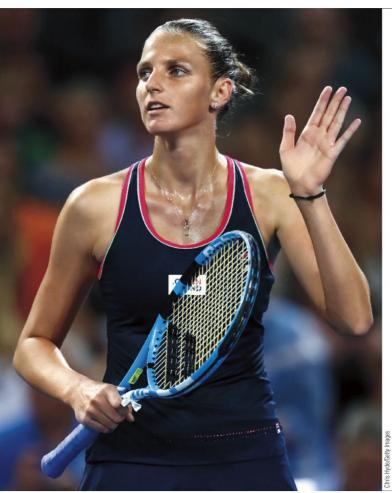
Aryna Sabalenka

Recognized as the Most Impressive Newcomer in women's tennis in 2018, Aryna Sabalenka captured her first WTA title just before the US Open last year, winning New Haven, cracking the Top 20 and earning a US Open Series Breakout Performers Award. Sabalenka, who began 2018 ranked No. 73, then gave eventual US Open champion Naomi Osaka her stiffest test in Flushing in the round of 16. Sabalenka cracked the Top 10 earlier this year, opening the season with the Shenzhen crown. She also has proven herself a doubles threat, taking titles back-to-back at Indian Wells and Miami with Elise Mertens. After Roland Garros, Sabalenka joined Ashleigh Barty as the only women to hold simultaneous Top 10 singles and Top 20 doubles rankings.

BORN: 5/5/98, Minsk, Belarus RESIDENCE: Minsk, Belarus HEIGHT: 5'11" • PLAYS: Right-handed



		Career	19	18	17
	AUS	2-2	3R	1R	-
Idage	RG	1-2	2R	1R	-
2	WIM	1-3	1R	1R	2R
Schulley Ar Hildyes	US	3-1		4R	-



Karolina Pliskova

Tied for the tour lead in 2019 singles titles as this year's US Open Series began, taking top prize at Brisbane, Rome and Eastbourne, Karolina Pliskova is perhaps the best player in women's tennis yet to win a Grand Slam tournament singles crown. She has reached a major championship final, playing for the US Open title in 2016, and she held the No. 1 ranking for eight weeks midway through the 2017 season. Pliskova has been in the Top 10 for match wins each season since 2014, inclusive, finishing in the Top 3 for three of the past four years. She also has been the WTA leader in aces three of the past four seasons and has helped clinch the Fed Cup championship for two of the Czech Republic's past three titles.

BORN: 3/21/92 Louny, Czech Republic RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco HEIGHT: 6'1" • PLAYS: Right-handed



	AUS	18-7	SF	QF	QF	3R	3R	2R	1R	-
	RG	11-8	3R	3R	SF	1R	2R	2R	1R	1R
	WIM	11-8	4R	4R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	1R
,	US	16-6		QF	QF	RU	1R	3R	1R	-

18 17 16 15 14 13 12

2019 US OPEN 175

Garbiñe Muguruza



Winner at Wimbledon in 2017 and champion at Roland Garros in 2016, Garbiñe Muguruza has made it to the second week of the US Open once in her six previous trips: 2017, the year she rose to No.1 in the world. But she has won hard court singles titles in North America each of the last three seasons, most recently claiming the Monterrey crown this past April.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
AUS	17-7	4R	2R	QF	3R	4R	4R	2R	-
RG	27-6	4R	SF	4R	W	QF	QF	2R	-
WIM	16-6	1R	2R	W	2R	RU	1R	2R	-
US	6-6		2R	4R	2R	2R	1R	_	1R

BORN: 10/8/93 Caracas, Venezuela RESIDENCE: Geneva, Switzerland **HEIGHT:** 6'0" PLAYS: Right-handed



Maria Sharapova



Since her breakout Wimbledon triumph in 2004, Maria Sharapova has been a superstar. She captured at least one singles crown each year for 13 straight seasons, 2003-15, the fifth-best run all time. Along the way, she collected a career Grand Slam, and she remains a factor. Note her upset of defending champion Caroline Wozniacki at this year's Australian Open.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	80	07	06	05	04	03
AUS	57-14	4R	3R	-	QF	RU	4R	SF	RU	4R	1R	-	W	RU	SF	SF	3R	1R
RG	56-12	-	QF	-	-	4R	W	RU	W	SF	3R	QF	4R	SF	4R	QF	QF	1R
WIM	46-14	1R	1R	-	-	SF	4R	2R	4R	RU	4R	2R	2R	4R	SF	SF	W	4R
US	38-11		4R	4R	-	-	4R	-	SF	3R	4R	3R	- 1	3R	W	SF	3R	2R

BORN: 4/19/87 Nyagan, Russia RESIDENCE: Bradenton, Florida **HEIGHT:** 6'2" PLAYS: Right-handed



Victoria Azarenka



A two-time Australian Open champion, two-time US Open runner-up and former world No. 1, Victoria Azarenka in July returned to the WTA Top 40 for the first time since coming back from maternity leave in June 2017. She reached her first singles final in three years this past April, defeating Angelique Kerber in the semis at Monterrey, Azarenka's first Top 5 win since 2016.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06
AUS	39-10	1R	_	_	QF	4R	QF	W	W	4R	QF	4R	3R	3R	1R
RG	22-12	2R	1R	_	1R	3R	_	SF	4R	QF	1R	QF	4R	1R	1R
WIM	32-12	3R	2R	4R	-	QF	2R	2R	SF	SF	3R	QF	3R	3R	1R
US	34-11		3R	_	_	QF	QF	RU	RU	3R	2R	3R	3R	4R	3R

BORN: 7/31/89 Minsk, Belarus RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco **HEIGHT:** 6'0" PLAYS: Right-handed



Belinda Bencic



A Swiss phenom once touted as the second coming of Martina Hingis, Belinda Bencic began the US Open Series positioned to reenter the Top 10 for the first time since June 2016, having impressed all year. She mounted a 12-match winning streak in February/March, beating six of the WTA's Top 10 and taking the title in Dubai. Bencic also was runner-up at Mallorca in June.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14
AUS	7-6	3R	2R	1R	4R	1R	2R
RG	4-4	3R	2R	-	-	2R	1R
WIM	11-5	3R	4R	-	2R	4R	3R
US	8-4		1R	-	3R	3R	QF

BORN: 3/10/97 Flawil, Switzerland Wollerau, Switzerland

RESIDENCE: **HEIGHT:** 5'9" PLAYS: Right-handed









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Anastasija Sevastova



Since last October, when she reached her third singles final of the year, Anastasija Sevastova has been on the cusp of the WTA Top 10. She claimed her first title of 2019 in July, taking the inaugural Baltic Open in her native Latvia before starting US Open Series play. With a history of improving results year-over-year, Sevastova is one to watch at the US Open, where she was a 2018 semifinalist.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	
AUS	10-6	4R	2R	3R	2R	-	-	-	-	4R	1R	-	
RG	6-7	4R	1R	3R	2R	-	-	-	-	1R	1R	1R	
WIM	2-7	2R	1R	2R	1R	-	-	-	-	1R	1R	1R	
US	15-6		SF	QF	QF	-	-	-	-	1R	2R	2R	

BORN: 4/13/90
Liepaja, Latvia
RESIDENCE:
Liepaja, Latvia
HEIGHT: 5'7"
PLAYS: Right-handed



Marketa Vondrousova



The first teenager in a decade to reach a Grand Slam tournament final, Roland Garros runner-up Marketa Vondrousova is likely the latest in a line of lefty Czech champions. Earlier this season, she was runner-up at Budapest and Istanbul, with quarterfinal finishes at all but one of her other events. By the time she turned 20 in June, she had already been ranked in the WTA Top 20 for a month.

	Career	19	18	17	
AUS	2-2	2R	2R	-	
RG	7-3	RU	1R	2R	
WIM	0-3	1R	1R	1R	
US	3-2		4R	1R	

BORN: 6/28/99
Sokolov, Czech Republic
RESIDENCE:
Sokolov, Czech Republic
HEIGHT: 5'6"
PLAYS: Left-handed



Julia Goerges



The tour's oldest singles champion of the season heading into the US Open Series, Julia Goerges, at age 30 years, 1 month and 4 days old, successfully defended her Auckland title in January. She also advanced to the final at Birmingham in June. The WTA leader in aces last season, with 492, Goerges joins Serena Williams and Karolina Pliskova as the only women to hit 400 aces in a season.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	80	07	
AUS	16-11	1R	2R	2R	2R	4R	2R	4R	4R	3R	2R	1R	_	_	
RG	12-11	1R	3R	1R	2R	4R	2R	1R	3R	3R	2R	1R	=	_	
WIM	12-12	3R	SF	1R	1R	1R	1R	1R	3R	3R	1R	1R	2R	\Box	
US	8-12		2R	4R	2R	1R	1R	1R	1R	3R	2R	1R	1R	1R	

BORN: 11/2/88
Bad Oldesloe, Germany
RESIDENCE:
Bad Oldesloe & Regensburg, Germany-

HEIGHT: 5'11" PLAYS: Right-handed



Wang Qiang



Since last September, Wang Qiang has been China's top-ranked women's player. At No. 14 as of the end of July, she is the highest-ranking Chinese woman since two-time Grand Slam tournament champion Li Na retired in 2014. Wang has risen to the cusp of the Top 10 having never gotten past the third round of a major. But she has won two titles and twice been runner-up in the last 13 months.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14
AUS	3-5	3R	1R	1R	2R	1R	-1
RG	4-5	2R	3R	1R	2R	1R	-
WIM	3-5	3R	1R	2R	1R	1R	-
US	5-5		3R	1R	2R	2R	2R

BORN: 1/14/92 Tianjin, China RESIDENCE: Tianjin, China HEIGHT: 5'8" PLAYS: Right-handed





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Johanna Konta



When the US Open Series began in July, Johanna Konta was having a season to rival the 2017 campaign that saw her rise to No. 5. She was a two-time tournament finalist and among the tour leaders in match victories, with the second-most Top 10 wins. Konta's history at the US Open has been spotty, but she had never won a match at Roland Garros before reaching the semis this year.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	
AUS	11-4	2R	2R	QF	SF	-	-	-	-	
RG	5-5	SF	1R	1R	1R	1R	-	-	-	
WIM	11-8	QF	2R	SF	2R	1R	1R	1R	1R	
US	7-6		1R	1R	4R	4R	1R	_	2R	

BORN: 5/17/91 Sydney, Australia RESIDENCE: Eastbourne, England HEIGHT: 5'11" PLAYS: Right-handed



Anett Kontaveit



Girls' singles runner-up at the 2012 US Open, Anett Kontaveit, during the past 12 months, has taken significant steps as a pro. She cracked the Top 20 last October, boosted by her runner-up finish at Wuhan three weeks after the US Open. She was a surprise semifinalist this year at Miami, which lifted her to a career-best No. 14. Next, Kontaveit advanced to the final at Stuttgart.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	
AUS	4-4	2R	4R	1R	1R	-	_	
RG	4-4	1R	4R	2R	1R	-	-	
WIM	6-6	3R	3R	3R	1R	1R	1R	
US	3-4		1R	1R	1R	4R	-	

BORN: 12/24/95 Tallinn, Estonia RESIDENCE: Tallinn, Estonia **HEIGHT:** 5'9" PLAYS: Right-handed



Elise Mertens



One of only three women to rank in the Top 20 in singles and doubles as of late July, Elise Mertens could be a dual threat at the US Open. She claimed the singles crown at Doha in February, beating Top 10 players in three consecutive matches. Mertens then took back-to-back doubles titles at Indian Wells and Miami, and was two victories from becoming No. 1 in doubles at Roland Garros.

	Career	19	18	17	16
AUS	7-2	3R	SF	-	-
RG	7-3	3R	4R	3R	-
WIM	5-3	4R	3R	1R	-
US	3-3		4R	1R	1R

BORN: 11/17/95 Leuven, Belaium RESIDENCE: Hamont-Achel, Belgium HEIGHT: 5'10" PLAYS: Right-handed



Petra Martic



With a 21-5 record from April through July, including her first WTA title and her first Top 5 win in seven years, Petra Martic has emerged from under the radar to become an obvious contender. In contrast to losing in the first round in nine of 10 majors across a four-year period, Martic went to Roland Garros this spring a month after taking the title at Istanbul and reached the quarterfinals.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	
AUS	6-8	3R	4R	-	$(-1)^{n}$	1R	1R	1R	1R	2R	1R	(x_{i+1}, x_{i+1})	
RG	12-9	QF	2R	4R	-	1R	1R	1R	4R	-	1R	2R	
WIM	10-7	4R	1R	4R	-	-	1R	3R	1R	2R	2R	-	
US	2-6		1R	1R	-	-	-	-	1R	2R	1R	2R	

BORN: 1/19/91 Split, Croatia RESIDENCE: Freeport, Bahamas **HEIGHT:** 5'11"



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Amanda Anisimova



US Open girls' singles champion in 2017, Amanda Anisimova is part of a new wave of teen phenoms in women's tennis. She has reached the WTA Top 25 faster than any former Flushing junior titlist in 25 years. In April, at age 17 years, 7 months and 14 days, Anisimova won at Bogota for her first tour singles crown. Seven weeks later at Roland Garros, she advanced to the semifinals.

	Career	19	18	17	
AUS	3-1	4R	-	-	
RG	5-2	SF	-	1R	
WIM	1-1	2R	-	-	
IIS	0-1	_	1R	_	

BORN: 8/31/01 Freehold Township, New Jersey RESIDENCE: Aventura, Florida

> HEIGHT: 5'11" PLAYS: Right-handed



Sofia Kenin



Across the first seven months of this season, Sofia Kenin was the top-performing American in women's tennis. Her win-loss record through July was Top 10 for the tour. Only two players had claimed more singles titles this season, with Kenin collecting crowns at Hobart and Mallorca. In between, she was a finalist at Acapulco and upset Serena Williams at Roland Garros.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	
AUS	1-2	2R	1R	-	-	-	
RG	2-2	4R	1R	-	-	-	
WIM	2-2	2R	2R	-	-	-	
US	4-4		3R	3R	1R	1R	

BORN: 11/14/98 Moscow, Russia RESIDENCE: Pembroke Pines, Florida **HEIGHT:** 5'7" PLAYS: Right-handed



Danielle Collins



Already in select company as a two-time NCAA singles champion, Virginia grad Danielle Collins moved into a class of her own this year by reaching the semifinals at the Australian Open. No women's collegiate champion has advanced as far at a major. Collins had a similar surge in 2018, going from qualifying to the semifinals at Miami, with a win against then-No. 8 Venus Williams.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14
AUS	5-1	SF	_	_	_	_	-
RG	1-2	2R	1R	_	-	_	-
WIM	2-2	3R	1R	_	_	_	-
US	0-3		1R	_	1R	_	1R

BORN: 12/13/93 St. Petersburg, Florida RESIDENCE: St. Petersburg, Florida HEIGHT: 5'10" PLAYS: Right-handed



Caroline Garcia



The French No. 1 since October 2017, Caroline Garcia has a history of success at the US Open. She was runner-up in women's doubles in 2016 and in girls' singles in 2011. Last year, after reaching the US Open third round for the third year in a row, she rose to a career-best No. 4 in the world. Garcia, having led France in April to this year's Fed Cup Finals, won the Nottingham singles crown in June.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
AUS	10-8	3R	4R	3R	1R	3R	1R	1R	$(-1)^{n}$	2R
RG	11-9	2R	4R	QF	2R	1R	1R	2R	1R	2R
WIM	7-7	1R	1R	4R	2R	1R	3R	2R	-1	-
US	7-6		3R	3R	3R	1R	1R	2R	-	

BORN: 10/16/93 Saint-Germain-En-Laye, France RESIDENCE: Lyon, France HEIGHT: 5'10" PLAYS: Right-handed





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Novak Djokovic

For the past 15 months, US Open defending champion Novak Djokovic has been the most dominant man in tennis...again. If not for poor weather at Roland Garros, Djokovic might've come to Flushing this year chasing a fifth consecutive Grand Slam tournament singles crown. As it is, he could join Roger Federer as the only men to win Wimbledon and the US Open back-to-back four times. Djokovic, with 16 major singles titles, trails only Federer in total Grand Slam match victories, his 277-42 record giving him an 86.8 winning percentage that compares favorably to the 86.1 percentage of Federer's 353-57 mark. While claiming his third US Open crown last year, Djokovic tied the tourney's Open Era record for most men's singles finals, with eight.

BORN: 5/22/87, Belgrade, Serbia **RESIDENCE:** Monte Carlo, Monaco

HEIGHT: 6'2" • WEIGHT: 170 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



SRB

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	80	07	06	05
AUS	68-8	W	4R	2R	W	W	QF	W	W	W	QF	QF	W	4R	1R	1R
RG	68-14	SF	QF	QF	W	RU	RU	SF	RU	SF	QF	3R	SF	SF	QF	2R
WIM	72-10	W	W	QF	3R	W	W	RU	SF	W	SF	QF	2R	SF	4R	3R
211	69-10		W	-	RH	W	SF	RH	RH	W	RH	SF	SF	RH	3R	3R



Rafael Nadal

Universally regarded as the greatest clay court player of all time—a designation he bolstered this year by winning a 12th French Open crown—Rafael Nadal has strong support in the argument that he may be the greatest of all time, period. He owns 18 Grand Slam tournament singles titles, two behind leader Roger Federer. And Nadal defeated Federer in the semifinals at Roland Garros this season to take a 24-15 advantage in their head-to-head series. Nadal has won the US Open three times, which is only two fewer than the Open Era record of five. Furthermore, in a 2018 season that remarkably saw Nadal, Federer and Novak Djokovic each hold the No. 1 ranking, Nadal led with 36 weeks on top.

BORN: 6/3/86, Manacor, Mallorca, Spain RESIDENCE: Manacor, Mallorca, Spain

HEIGHT: 6'1" • WEIGHT: 188 lbs. • PLAYS: Left-handed

1R QF RU

QF W W W W W 2R 4R 1R 2R RU W

RII W



12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 RU 0F 0F W SF 0F - 4R 3R -W W W 4R W W W - -

SE SE 4R OF 3R 2R 2R

186 2019 US OPEN

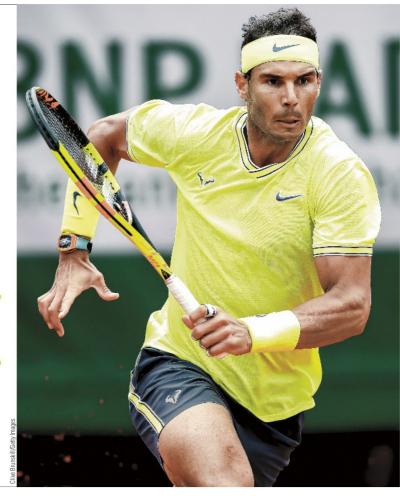
61-13

93-2

AUS

RG

US





GENIUS IS BORN CRAZY

Roger Federer

Arguably without peer, Roger Federer is the standard-bearer for the 21st century sportsperson. Not just tennis; all sports. He has won practically everything, his 20 Grand Slam tournament singles crowns an all-time record, his 102 overall singles titles at the start of the US Open Series closing in on the tour mark. According to Forbes, his \$86 million in endorsements tops everyone in sports. His career has been without controversy, and he is beloved worldwide. Former US Open champion Andy Roddick, who lost 21 of 24 matches to Federer, once guipped, "I'd love to hate the guy, but he's so nice." Federer's longevity is virtually unprecedented. This is his 78th Grand Slam tournament; no other men's major singles champion has contested more than 66 events.

BORN: 8/8/81, Basel, Switzerland

RESIDENCE: Switzerland

HEIGHT: 6'1" • WEIGHT: 187 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01 00 99 4R W W SF 3R SF SF SF W RU SF W W SF W 4R 4R 3R 3R -- QF 4R QF SF RU QF W RU RU RU SF 3R 1R 1R OF 4R 1R RG RU QF W SF RU RU 2R W QF QF W RU W W W W 1R QF 1R 1R US 4R QF - RU SF 4R QF SF SF RU W W



Dominic Thiem

As the only man in six years to reach two major championship finals at the age of 25 or younger, Dominic Thiem could rightfully be called a Grand Slam tournament champion-in-waiting. Day Nine of this year's US Open marks Thiem's 26th birthday, but already he has been runner-up at Roland Garros the past two seasons. Thiem is arguably the world's second-best player on clay, but he is hardly a clay court specialist. This year, on the hard courts at Indian Wells, he captured his first ATP Masters 1000 title, defeating Roger Federer in the final. The US Open has been Thiem's second-best major, to date, highlighted by instant-classic matches against Rafael Nadal in last year's guarterfinals and Juan Martin del Potro in the 2017 fourth round.

BORN: 9/3/93, Wiener Neustadt, Austria RESIDENCE: Lichtenwörth, Austria

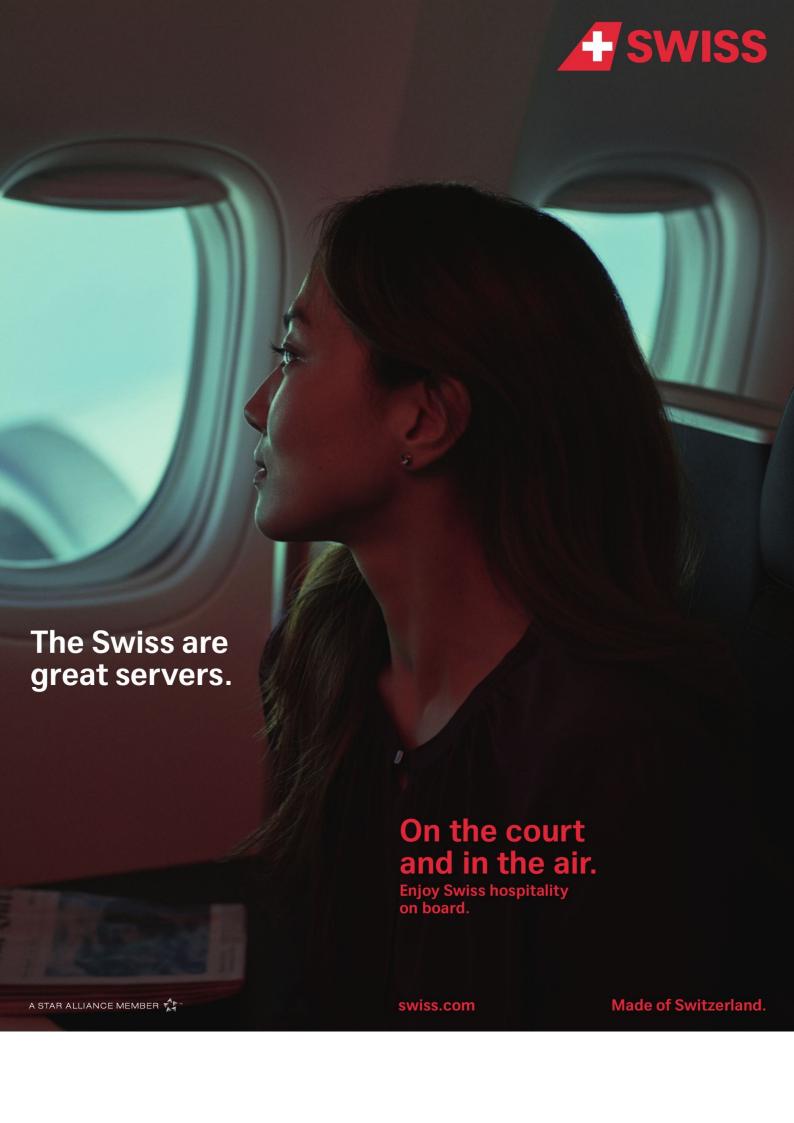
HEIGHT: 6'1" • WEIGHT: 180 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14
AUS	10-6	2R	4R	4R	3R	1R	2R
RG	24-6	RU	RU	SF	SF	2R	2R
WIM	5-6	1R	1R	4R	2R	2R	1R
US	15-5		QF	4R	4R	3R	4R

188 2019 US OPEN





Stefanos Tsitsipas

Winner of the 2018 Next Gen ATP Finals, Stefanos Tsitsipas captured two singles titles and led the tour in match victories by the midway point of this season, as if to assert that he's more than the preeminent 21-and-under player in men's tennis; he is among the best in the game, period. Tsitsipas, who turned 21 exactly two weeks before the US Open, stopped Roger Federer in the round of 16 this year at the Australian Open, on the way to his first Grand Slam tournament semifinal. Within six weeks, Tsitsipas broke into the Top 10. Last summer, he earned a US Open Series Breakout Performers Award, after becoming the youngest player in tour history to defeat four Top 10 players in a single event, en route to the final at Toronto.

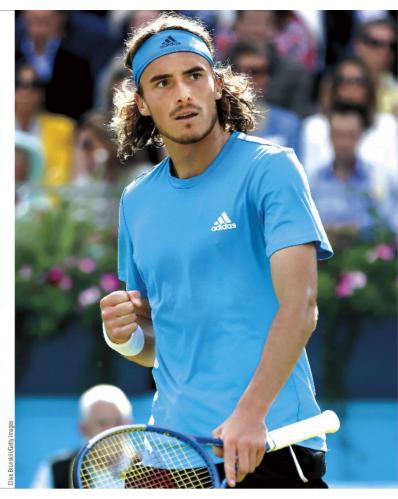
BORN: 8/12/98, Athens, Greece RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco

HEIGHT: 6'4" • WEIGHT: 187 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17
AUS	5-2	SF	1R	-
RG	4-3	4R	2R	1R
WIM	3-3	1R	4R	1R
US	1-1		2R	-





Alexander Zverev

As winner of last season's ATP Finals, Alexander "Sascha" Zverev is hoping to become the first man in 40 years to claim his first Grand Slam tournament singles crown at the US Open after capturing the year-end championships. John McEnroe, in 1979, was the last to do so. Major championship success has been expected of Zverev since he stepped away from junior competition following his 2014 Australian Open boys' singles title. To that end, he has been a quarterfinalist at Roland Garros the last two seasons. Perhaps more impressive, Zverev went into this year's US Open Series as the only man besides Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray to win at least three ATP Masters 1000 events in the last 10 years.

BORN: 4/20/97, Hamburg, Germany RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco

HEIGHT: 6'6" • WEIGHT: 198 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



GEI

	Career	19	18	17	16	15
AUS	7-4	4R	3R	3R	1R	
RG	10-4	QF	QF	1R	3R	$(-1)^{n}$
WIM	8-5	1R	3R	4R	3R	2R
US	4-4		3R	2R	2R	1R

190 2019 US OPEN



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Kei Nishikori

Runner-up at the US Open in 2014, Kei Nishikori has been the most successful men's singles player in Asian tennis history for at least the last six years, all while under the guidance of American Michael Chang. Nishikori, who has been a semifinalist at the US Open two of the past three years (a wrist injury kept him out in 2017), has advanced to the quarterfinals or better at more Grand Slam tournaments (10) across the last five seasons than any men but Novak Djokovic (15), Rafael Nadal (12) and Roger Federer (12). Nishikori came into this year's US Open Series having claimed five of his 12 career singles crowns in that same period, including this year's Brisbane title to start his 2019 campaign.

BORN: 12/29/89, Shimane, Japan **RESIDENCE:** Bradenton, Florida

HEIGHT: 5'10" • WEIGHT: 165 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



JPN

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	80
AUS	27-9	QF	-	4R	QF	QF	4R	4R	QF	3R	-	1R	=
RG	22-9	QF	4R	QF	4R	QF	1R	4R	-	2R	2R	-	-
WIM	21-10	QF	QF	3R	4R	2R	4R	3R	3R	1R	1R	= 0	1R
US	23-9		SF	-	SF	1R	RIJ	1R	3R	1R	3R	-	4R



Karen Khachanov

Upon reaching his first Grand Slam tournament quarterfinal in June, Karen Khachanov became the first Russian in nearly eight-and-a-half years to rank in the ATP Tour Top 10. Not since former US Open semifinalist Mikhail Youzhny in February 2011 has a Russian man been in the Top 10. And hardly anyone would be surprised if Khachanov matched Youzhny's US Open success, too. Khachanov's romp to the final eight at Roland Garros included beating Juan Martin del Potro in the fourth round. That marked the first time in seven attempts for Khachanov defeating a Top 10 player in a major, though he had been 8-17 overall against the elite. He stopped four Top 10 players en route to last year's Paris ATP Masters 1000 title.

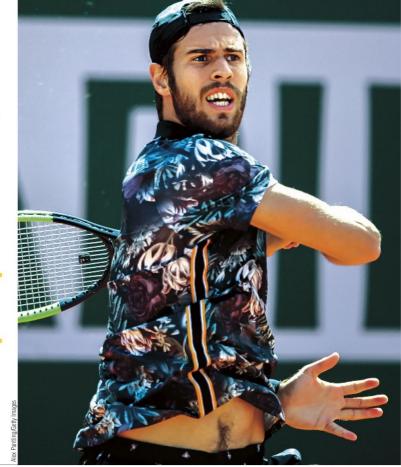
BORN: 5/21/96, Moscow, Russia
RESIDENCE: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

HEIGHT: 6'6" • WEIGHT: 192 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16
NUS	4-3	3R	2R	2R	-
RG	10-3	QF	4R	4R	-
MIV	7-3	3R	4R	3R	-

190 2019 US OPEN





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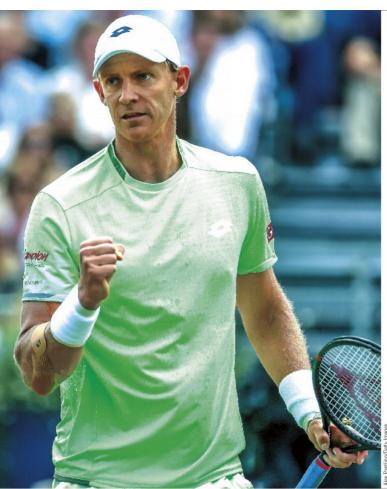
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Kevin **Anderson**

As a finalist at Wimbledon in 2018 and at the US Open in 2017, Kevin Anderson is the first NCAA champion-singles or doubles-to reach a major championship singles final since Mikael Pernfors was runnerup at the 1986 French Open a year after claiming his second NCAA singles crown for the University of Georgia. Anderson won the 2006 NCAA doubles title for the University of Illinois. Midway through the 2019 season, Anderson had played only three tournaments, limited by a right elbow injury. But he collected the sixth singles title of his career in Week One, stopping 6-foot-11 Ivo Karlovic in Pune, India, in the tallest final in ATP Tour history. Anderson, 6-foot-8, also was a guarterfinalist at Miami, losing to eventual champion Roger Federer.

BORN: 5/18/86, Johannesburg, South Africa

RESIDENCE: Gulf Stream, Florida

HEIGHT: 6'8" • WEIGHT: 205 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 09 08

I	AUS	12-11	2R	1R	-	1R	4R	4R	4R	3R	1R	1R	1R	16
F	RG	17-9	-	4R	4R	1R	3R	4R	4R	3R	2R	1R	-	-
S V	VIM	20-11	3R	RU	4R	1R	4R	4R	3R	1R	2R	1R		1F
l l		22-9		4R	RU	3R	QF	3R	2R	1R	3R	3R	1-1	-



John Isner

Renowned for a booming serve that has led the ATP Tour in aces five of the past seven seasons, John Isner has been the U.S. mainstay in the ATP Tour Top 20 for most of the past decade. He has been the American No. 1 for six of the past seven years. The North American summer is typically when Isner is at his best. He has won 11 of his 15 singles titles in July or August, including his record four singles crowns on grass at the Hall of Fame Open in Newport, R.I. These last two years have seen Isner excel during the spring, too. He won at Miami in 2018 for his first ATP Masters 1000 crown, and he returned to the final this year. Thereafter, a stress fracture in his left foot kept Isner sidelined until July.

18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07

BORN: 4/26/85, Greensboro, North Carolina

RESIDENCE: Dallas, Texas

HEIGHT: 6'10" • WEIGHT: 238 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



		ourcer				10	10					10		00	0.
	AUS	13-11	1R	1R	2R	4R	3R	1R	-	3R	3R	4R	1R	1R	-
o A	RG	17-10	-	4R	3R	4R	2R	4R	3R	2R	1R	3R	-	1R	-
	WIM	16-11	2R	SF	2R	3R	3R	3R	2R	1R	2R	2R	-	1R	-
5	US	28-12		QF	3R	3R	4R	3R	3R	3R	QF	3R	4R	1R	3R

2019 US OPEN 193

Marin Cilic

US Open men's singles champion in 2014, Marin Cilic has a chance with this year's US Open to reach a Grand Slam tournament singles final for a third consecutive season. Thus far, only Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have achieved that feat in the three-year period 2017-19. Cilic, who was runner-up at Wimbledon in 2017 and at the Australian Open in 2018 (losing both finals to Federer), has won at least one ATP Tour title per season for 11 years in a row. He began this year's US Open Series still seeking his first crown of 2019, a guarterfinal finish at the ATP Masters 1000 event in Madrid his best result. Cilic led Croatia to its second all-time Davis Cup championship in 2018, posting a 6-1 record-combined singles and doubles-during the title march.

BORN: 9/28/88, Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina

RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco

HEIGHT: 6'6" • WEIGHT: 196 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	80	07
AUS	29-11	4R	RU	2R	3R	-	2R	3R	-	4R	SF	4R	4R	1R
RG	25-13	2R	QF	QF	1R	4R	3R	3R	3R	1R	4R	4R	2R	1R
WIM	29-12	2R	2R	RU	QF	QF	QF	2R	4R	1R	1R	3R	4R	1R
US	33-9		OF	3R	3R	SF	W	-	OF	3R	2R	OF	3R	-



Stan **Wawrinka**

As the 2016 US Open champion, Stan Wawrinka never got a chance to defend his title, the most recent of his three Grand Slam tournament crowns. He missed the 2017 Open because of two left knee surgeries in August 2017, and he arrived in Flushing last year ranked No. 101. His ranking hasn't yet returned to the career-best No. 3 spot he held when he won here, but he was back in the Top 20 by June. In February at Rotterdam, Wawrinka advanced to his first final since 2017 Roland Garros. And his play at this year's French Open may have eclipsed even Rotterdam. Wawrinka stopped sixth-seeded rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas to reach the guarterfinals, his seventh win against a Top 10 player in his last 10 such matches at majors.

BORN: 3/28/85, Lausanne, Switzerland RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco

HEIGHT: 6'0" • WEIGHT: 179 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed

2R 2R

SF 4R SF



19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05 W 4R 3R QF 3R 3R 2R 3R 2R OF 1R RU SE W 1R OF 4R 4R 4R 3R 3R 2R 1R 3R 2R 2R 1R 2R QF QF 1R 1R 2R 1R 4R 4R 1R 3R 1R W SF QF SF 4R 2R QF 1R 4R 4R 3R 3R

2019 US OPEN

38-13

42-14

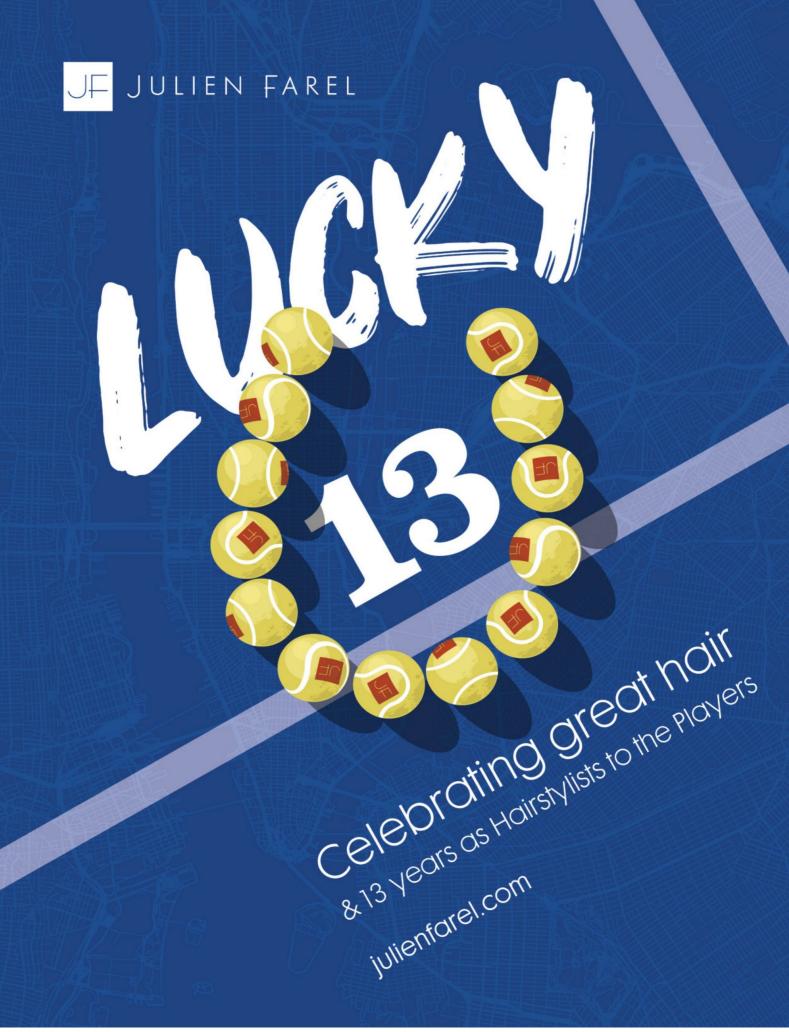
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Daniil Medvedev

At this time last year, Daniil Medvedev had just surged into the Top 50, propelled by a US Open Series tournament title at Winston-Salem. He is now the second Russian in a little more than eight years to have earned a Top 10 ranking, with an ATP Tour crown (the fourth of his career), two runner-up finishes and three semifinals-all within the first six months of the 2019 season—taking him into the realm of the elite by the time this year's US Open Series kicked off. Medvedev was merely five weeks behind his countryman, Karen Khachanov, in reaching the Top 10, giving Russia two men in the Top 10 concurrently for the first time since Mikhail Youzhny and Nikolay Davydenko in October 2010.

BORN: 2/11/96, Moscow, Russia RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco

HEIGHT: 6'6" • WEIGHT: 182 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



	Career	17	10	11
AUS	4-3	4R	2R	1R
RG	0-3	1R	1R	1R
WIM	5-3	3R	3R	2R
US	2-2		3R	1R



Fabio Fognini

With a Grand Slam tournament singles crown, Fabio Fognini would establish himself as one of the greatest Italian men's tennis players of the Open Era. He already is part of the discussion. He has a major title; he won men's doubles at the 2015 Australian Open (with Simone Bolelli), the first Italian men's doubles triumph at a major since 1959. This season, Fognini became the first Italian to claim an ATP Masters 1000 championship, winning Monte Carlo after defeating Rafael Nadal in the semifinals. Fognini broke into the Top 10 two months later, the first Italian man in 40 years to rank among the sport's eliteone of only three in computer rankings history. In June 2016, Fognini married 2015 US Open women's singles champion Flavia Pennetta.

BORN: 5/24/87, Sanremo, Italy RESIDENCE: Arma Di Taggia, Italy HEIGHT: 5'10" • WEIGHT: 174 lbs. • PLAYS: Right-handed



		career	12	10	11	10	13	17	13	14		10	0,	VV	U	
	AUS	10-12	3R	4R	2R	1R	1R	4R	1R	1R	1R	1R	2R	1R	-	
2	RG	21-11	4R	4R	3R	1R	2R	3R	3R	3R	QF	3R	1R	\sim	1R	
Shiri	WIM	14-11	3R	3R	3R	2R	2R	3R	1R	2R	-	3R	2R	1R	-	
donn	US	9-11		2R	1R	2R	4R	2R	1R	3R	2R	1R	1R	1R	-	

2019 US OPEN 197

Roberto Bautista Agut



His career previously defined by its consistency, Roberto Bautista Agut has had a positively disruptive 2019. He opened the season, as usual, with an early title, this time at Doha. But he then advanced to the quarterfinals of a major for the first time at the Australian Open, and his romp to the semifinals at Wimbledon forced him to be a no-show for his own bachelor party.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	
AUS	15-8	QF	1R	4R	4R	2R	4R	2R	1R	
RG	14-7	3R	3R	4R	4R	2R	3R	2R	-	
WIM	15-6	SF	-	4R	3R	4R	3R	2R	-	
US	11-6		1R	3R	3R	4R	4R	2R	_	

BORN: 4/14/88
Castellon De La Plana, Spain
RESIDENCE:
Castellon De La Plana, Spain

Castellon De La Plana, Spain HEIGHT: 6'0" • WEIGHT: 165 lbs. PLAYS: Right-handed



Milos Raonic



CA

Runner-up at Wimbledon in 2016, Milos Raonic ranked a career-best No. 3 in the world at year's end, but injuries helped sink him to No. 40 in February 2018. He reclaimed a place in the Top 15 by spring 2019, battling to the quarterfinals at the Australian Open and to the semis at Indian Wells. Following a three-month injury layoff, Raonic also reached the semifinals at Stuttgart.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	
AUS	27-9	QF	1R	QF	SF	QF	3R	4R	3R	4R	-	
RG	14-6	-	-	4R	4R	-	QF	3R	3R	1R	-	
WIM	27-9	4R	QF	QF	RU	3R	SF	2R	2R	2R	-	
US	15-7		4R	-	2R	3R	4R	4R	4R	-	1R	

BORN: 12/27/90
Podgorica, Montenegro
RESIDENCE:
Monte Carlo, Monaco
HEIGHT: 6'5" • WEIGHT: 216 lbs.
PLAYS: Right-handed



Borna Coric



CRO

The ATP Star of Tomorrow in 2014, Borna Coric has begun to take firm footing as a star for today. By reaching at least the third round in a third consecutive Grand Slam tournament at this year's Roland Garros, Coric moved ahead of 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic to become Croatia's top-ranked men's player. Coric was key to Croatia's 2018 Davis Cup title.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14
AUS	3-5	4R	1R	1R	1R	1R	_
RG	9-5	3R	3R	2R	3R	3R	-
WIM	1-4	_	1R	1R	1R	2R	-
US	6-5		4R	3R	1R	1R	2R

BORN: 11/14/96 Zagreb, Croatia RESIDENCE: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

HEIGHT: 6'2" • WEIGHT: 187 lbs.

PLAYS: Right-handed

Cline Masour/Ceth, Images

Gael Monfils



Champion at Rotterdam in February, Gael Monfils is one of the premier showmen in tennis. "No-look" put-aways and 'tweeners, in combination with lightning speed, make Monfils fun to watch, regardless of opponent. He came to this year's US Open tied with Jean Borotra, one of the famed Musketeers, for third place in Grand Slam tournament match wins by a Frenchman.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	80	07	06	05	
AUS	26-14	2R	2R	4R	QF	2R	3R	3R	3R	3R	3R	4R	= 0	3R	1R	2R	
RG	36-13	4R	3R	4R	-	4R	QF	3R	-	QF	2R	QF	SF	3R	4R	1R	
WIM	16-11	1R	4R	3R	1R	3R	2R	-	-	3R	3R	-	= 1	3R	1R	3R	
US	25-12		2R	3R	SF	1R	QF	2R	-	2R	QF	4R	4R	-	2R	1R	

BORN: 9/1/86 Paris, France RESIDENCE: Switzerland

HEIGHT: 6'4" • WEIGHT: 176 lbs.

PLAYS: Right-handed





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Felix Auger-Aliassime



Sharing a birthday doesn't make Felix Auger-Aliassime the next Roger Federer, but his play this season has shown the Canadian is going to be somebody in tennis. Auger-Aliassime was a threetime ATP Tour finalist and on the cusp of cracking the Top 20 by the time he turned 19. He is out to join Andy Murray and Andy Roddick as US Open junior champions who also claimed the men's title.

	Career	19	18	
AUS	0-0	-	-	
RG	0-0	-	-	
WIM	2-1	3R	-	
US	0-1		1R	

BORN: 8/8/00 Montreal, Canada RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco HEIGHT: 6'4" WEIGHT: 194 lbs.

PLAYS: Right-handed



Mateo Berrettini



Ranked No. 57 at this time last year, Matteo Berrettini has become a Top 20 player this season by excelling on all surfaces. Including an ATP Challenger Tour title in Phoenix, he had captured championships on all three surfaces-clay, grass and hard courts-by midyear. His 23-6 match record from April through July was second only to Rafael Nadal in total wins.

	Career	19	18
AUS	0-2	1R	1R
RG	3-2	2R	3R
WIM	4-2	4R	2R
US	0-1		1R

BORN: 4/12/96 Rome, Italy RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco **HEIGHT:** 6'5" **WEIGHT:** 198 lbs. PLAYS: Right-handed



Nikoloz Basilashvili



Nikoloz Basilashvili is a trailblazer. With just about everything he has done the last few seasons, including his advance to the round of 16 at last year's US Open, Basilashvili has been the first man representing the republic of Georgia to do it. First to reach an ATP Tour final (2016 Kitzbuhel). First to win an ATP Tour title (2018 Hamburg). First to crack the Top 20 (January 2019).

	Career	19	18	17	16	15
AUS	4-4	3R	3R	1R	1R	_
RG	2-5	1R	1R	3R	1R	1R
WIM	4-4	2R	1R	2R	-	3R
US	3-3		4R	1R	_	1R

BORN:2/23/92 Tbilisi, Georgia RESIDENCE: Tbilisi, Georgia

HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 174 lbs. PLAYS: Right-handed



Denis Shapovalov



The ATP Tour Newcomer of the Year and Most Improved Player for 2017, Denis Shapovalov started that season ranked No. 250 and ended at No. 51. This year, he cracked the Top 20, landing at No. 20 after reaching the semifinals at Miami. En route, Shapovalov upset then-No. 10 Stefanos Tsitsipas in the round of 16, his first Top 10 match win since beating No. 2 Rafael Nadal at Montreal in 2017.

	Career	19	18	17	
AUS	3-2	3R	2R	-	
RG	1-2	1R	2R	-	
WIM	1-3	1R	2R	1R	
US	5-2		3R	4R	

BORN: 4/15/99 Tel Aviv, Israel RESIDENCE: Nassau, Bahamas HEIGHT: 6'0" WEIGHT: 165 lbs. PLAYS: Left-handed





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David Goffin



Already the most accomplished men's player in his nation's history, David Goffin became the first Belgian man to reach at least the quarterfinals in three different majors when he advanced to the final eight this year at Wimbledon. By getting as far at the US Open, he would achieve a quarterfinals Grand Slam. At Halle in June, Goffin reached his first final since the ATP Finals in 2017.

		Career	19	18	1/	16	15	14	13	12
sabi	AUS	11-6	3R	2R	QF	4R	2R	-	1R	-
	RG	16-8	3R	4R	3R	QF	3R	1R	1R	4R
/Getty Images	WIM	12-7	QF	1R	-	4R	4R	1R	1R	3R
/Get	US	10-7		4R	4R	1R	3R	3R	1R	1R

BORN: 12/7/90 Rocourt, Belgium RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco HEIGHT: 5'11" WEIGHT: 150 lbs. PLAYS: Right-handed



Diego Schwartzman



The first player in 2019 to reach the singles and doubles finals of the same tournament (Buenos Aires, where he was runner-up in both events), 5-foot-7 Diego Schwartzman has gained fame in the past couple of years as the shortest player in more than 35 years to rise to the cusp of the ATP Tour Top 10. Schwartzman stood at No. 12 this time last season.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14
AUS	6-5	3R	4R	2R	1R	1R	-
RG	9-6	2R	QF	3R	1R	2R	2R
WIM	3-5	3R	2R	1R	1R	1R	-
US	7-5		3R	QF	1R	2R	1R
	AUS RG WIM US						AUS 6-5 3R 4R 2R 1R 1R RG 9-6 2R 0F 3R 1R 1R 2R WIM 3-5 3R 2R 1R 1R 1R US 7-5 3R 0F 1R 2R

BORN: 8/16/92
Buenos Aires, Argentina
RESIDENCE:
Buenos Aires, Argentina
HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 141 lbs.
PLAYS: Right-handed



Sam Querrey



Sidelined by an abdominal injury this spring, Sam Querrey started this summer on a roll. He battled his way to the final at Eastbourne, his first event in nearly three months, and then marched to the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the third time in four years. His ranking jumped 40 spots in three weeks. Pre-injury, Querrey was a semifinalist at the New York Open in February and at Houston in April.

		Career	19	10	17	10	13	14	13	12	ш	10	09	UO	UI	UO
	AUS	12-13	1R	2R	3R	1R	1R	3R	3R	2R	1R	1R	1R	3R	3R	-
	RG	5-12	-	2R	1R	1R	1R	2R	3R	1R	2R	1R	1R	1R	1R	-
•	WIM	23-12	QF	3R	SF	QF	2R	2R	1R	3R	-	4R	2R	1R	1R	-
	US	18-12		1R	QF	1R	1R	3R	2R	3R	-	4R	3R	4R	1R	2R

San Francisco, California RESIDENCE: Las Vegas, Nevada HEIGHT: 6'6" WEIGHT: 210 lbs. PLAYS: Right-handed

BORN: 10/7/87



Lucas Pouille



A semifinalist at this year's Australian Open and champion three months later at the Bordeaux Challenger, Lucas Pouille is the third man in the last two seasons to win a challenger and reach a Grand Slam tournament semi in the same year. Pouille suffered a five-match losing streak after the Aussie Open and accepted a wild card into Bordeaux to regroup.

		Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13
	AUS	5-6	SF	1R	1R	1R	1R	1R	-
ades	RG	7-7	2R	3R	3R	2R	1R	1R	2R
ly Imi	RG WIM US	8-5	3R	2R	2R	QF	1R	_	_
VGet	US	9-4		3R	4R	QF	1R	_	_

BORN: 2/23/94
Grande-Synthe, France
RESIDENCE:
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 179 lbs.
PLAYS: Right-handed



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Taylor Fritz



Three years after being an 18-year-old finalist at Memphis and earning ATP Newcomer of the Year honors, Taylor Fritz this season won his first ATP Tour title. Fritz, who defeated countryman Sam Querrey in the Eastbourne final, also took home an ATP Challenger title in January, making him one of two men this season to win both ATP Tour and ATP Challenger Tour titles.

		Career	19	18	17	16
	AUS	2-3	3R	-	1R	1R
des	RG	1-3	2R	1R	-	1R
Getty Images	WIM	2-4	2R	2R	1R	1R
/Gett	US	3-3		3R	2R	1R

BORN: 10/28/97 Rancho Santa Fe, California RESIDENCE: Rancho Palos Verdes, California HEIGHT: 6'4" WEIGHT: 190 lbs. PLAYS: Right-handed



Frances Tiafoe



By advancing to the quarterfinals this year at the Australian Open, Frances Tiafoe became the first African American man since James Blake in 2008—and the fifth in history—to reach the final eight at a major. Tiafoe, who won his first tour singles title last season at Delray Beach, also advanced to the quarters this year at Miami, his best showing at an ATP Masters 1000.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15
AUS	5-3	QF	1R	2R	-	-
RG	0-4	1R	1R	1R	-	1R
WIM	3-3	1R	3R	2R	-	-
US	1-4		2R	1R	1R	1R
		AUS 5-3 RG 0-4 WIM 3-3	AUS 5-3 QF	AUS 5-3 QF 1R	AUS 5-3 QF 1R 2R	

BORN:1/20/98 Hyattsville, Maryland RESIDENCE: Orlando, Florida HEIGHT: 6'2" WEIGHT: 190 lbs. PLAYS: Right-handed



Grigor Dimitrov



ATP Finals champion and year-end No. 3 in 2017, Grigor Dimitrov is among the most talented players in the game. He may have entered this year's US Open Series amid a season of struggle—his only quarterfinal was in Week One at Brisbane—but he has rebounded from this kind of slump before. Dimitrov first cracked the Top 10 in 2014, faded in his 2015-16 campaigns and took off again in 2017.

	Career	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09
AUS	23-9	4R	QF	SF	3R	4R	QF	1R	2R	2R	-	-
RG	9-9	3R	3R	3R	1R	1R	1R	3R	2R	1R	-	-
WIM	15-10	1R	1R	4R	3R	3R	SF	2R	2R	2R	-	1R
US	8-8		1R	2R	4R	2R	4R	1R	1R	1R	-	-

BORN: 5/16/91 Haskovo, Bulgaria RESIDENCE: Monte Carlo, Monaco HEIGHT: 6'3" WEIGHT: 176 lbs. PLAYS: Right-handed



Nick Kyrgios



AUS

Tennis today may not have a more mercurial player than Nick Kyrgios. His play at times can be brilliant. He is the only man besides Lleyton Hewitt to have beaten Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal the first time he played them. Kyrgios defeated Nadal for a third time en route to the Acapulco title this past March.

		Career	10	18	17	16	15	1/1	12
	AUS	11-6		4R					
ages	RG WIM US	5-5	_	=	2R	3R	3R	1R	2R
etty III	WIM	13-6	2R	3R	1R	4R	4R	QF	_
ge/Ge	US	6-6		3R	1R	3R	1R	3R	1R

BORN: 04/27/95 Canberra, Australia RESIDENCE: Canberra, Australia & Nassau, Bahamas

HEIGHT: 6'4" WEIGHT: 187 lbs.
PLAYS: Right-handed







Barbora Krejcikova / Katerina Siniakova

The Czech duo of Barbora Krejcikova (left) and Katerina Siniakova was the 2018 WTA Doubles Team of the Year, with the two 23-year-olds sharing the No. 1 ranking.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2018 Roland Garros and Wimbledon champions, which they won in 2013 as juniors (They were also 2013 US Open girls' doubles winners.)
- · Runners-up in 2019 at Indian Wells
- Semifinalists in 2019 at *Wimbledon*, Rome and Brishane
- Siniakova claimed the 2019 Sydney doubles title in partnership with Aleksandra Krunic

Timea Babos / Kristina Mladenovic

Timea Babos (left) was the WTA doubles No. 1 for 13 weeks in 2018, while Kristina Mladenovic rose to No. 1 this past June and held the top spot for five weeks.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- · 2019 Istanbul, Roland Garros champions
- Winners: 2018-Australian Open, Birmingham, WTA Finals; 2015-Dubai, Marrakech, Rome
- Mladenovic claimed her first major titles in mixed doubles: 2013 Wimbledon, 2014 Australian Open
- · Babos is a two-time mixed doubles runner-up
- Both have another 13 titles each, with at least eight different partners each

Nicole Melichar / Kveta Peschke

Czech-born American Nicole Melichar (right), 26, wasn't even born when her partner, Czech veteran Kveta Peschke, 44, made her WTA debut.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- · 2019 Brisbane champions
- · Winners: 2018-Prague, Tianjin
- Debuted as a team at the 2018 Australian Open
- Melichar claimed her first Grand Slam tournament title in mixed doubles at 2018 Wimbledon
- Peschke captured her lone major, thus far, in women's doubles at 2011 Wimbledon







Elise Mertens / Aryna Sabalenka

The Belgian-Belarussian tandem of Elise Mertens (left) and Aryna Sabalenka is the WTA's only regular partnership for 2019 that features two Top 20 singles players.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Indian Wells, Miami champions (only the fifth women's team to claim the "Sunshine Double")
- Semifinalists at 2019 Roland Garros
- · Quarterfinalists at 2019 Wimbledon
- Mertens has six other doubles titles with three partners and reached the US Open quarterfinals last year with Demi Schuurs

Hsieh Su-Wei / Barbora Strycova

After they won Wimbledon this year, Barbora Strycova (left), five years after her partner Hsieh Su-Wei held the position, took over the No.1 ranking in doubles.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Dubai, Madrid, Birmingham, Wimbledon champions
- Winners: 2018-Indian Wells (their partnership debut)
- Hsieh has won 19 titles with six other partners, including 2014 Roland Garros and 2013 Wimbledon with Peng Shuai
- Strycova has won 22 titles with 10 other partners

Latisha Chan / Chan Hao-Ching

Sisters Latisha Chan (left) and Chan Hao-Ching both reached the women's doubles final at Grand Slam tournaments in 2017, but not with each other.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Hobart, Doha, Eastbourne champions
- Winners: 2017-Taipei City, Hong Kong; 2016-Doha, Kaohsiung, Hong Kong; 2015-Pattaya City, Cincinnati, Tokyo; 2014-Eastbourne; 2013-Shenzhen
- Both reached Grand Slam tournament finals with different partners. Latisha won the 2017 US Open with Martina Hingis; Hao-Ching was runner-up at 2017 Wimbledon with Monica Niculescu







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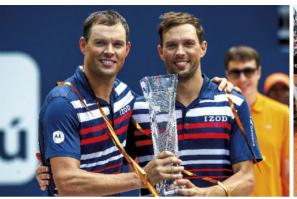
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Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan

As a quirk of injury and mixed doubles, Bob Bryan (left) holds the US Open men's record for total titles (9), while his twin Mike has the mark for men's doubles (6).

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Record 118 titles as a team (through July)
- · 2019 Delray Beach, Miami champions
- · Record 16 Grand Slam men's doubles titles
- · 2006-07, '09-11, '13 Australian Open champions
- 2003, '13 Roland Garros champions
- · 2006, '11, '13 Wimbledon champions
- 2005, '08, '10, '12, '14 US Open champions
- · Combined 11 Grand Slam mixed doubles titles

Juan Sebastian Cabal / Robert Farah

Colombians Juan Sebastian Cabal (left) and Robert Farah, having first paired in 2004 at an ITF Circuit event, this year captured their first major championship.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Barcelona, Rome, Eastbourne, Wimbledon champions
- Winners: 2018-Rome; 2017-Buenos Aires, Munich; 2016-Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Nice, Moscow; 2015-Sao Paulo, Geneva; 2014-Rio de Janeiro, Winston-Salem
- Cabal won 2017 Australian Open mixed doubles (w/A. Spears), Colombia's second major title all-time

Jean-Julien Rojer / Horia Tecau

After teaming for the first time in 2014, Jean-Julien Rojer (left) and Horia Tecau, in 2015, stopped the Bryans' six-year reign as the No.1 doubles team in men's tennis.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- · 2019 Madrid champions
- Winners: 2018-Dubai, Winston-Salem; 2017-Dubai, Geneva, Winston-Salem, US Open; 2016-Madrid; 2015-Rotterdam, Wimbledon, ATP Finals; 2014-Zagreb, Casablanca, Bucharest, 's-Hertogenbosch, Washington, Shenzhen, Beijing, Valencia
- Both have a Grand Slam mixed doubles title; Tecau at the 2012 Aussie Open, Rojer at 2014 Roland Garros.







Kevin Krawietz / Andreas Mies

The first all-German pair to claim a Grand Slam men's doubles title, Kevin Krawietz (left) and Andreas Mies won Roland Garros in their debut appearance.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 New York Open, Roland Garros champions
- Semifinalists at 2019 Budapest; quarterfinalists at 2019 Marrakech, Munich
- Made their tour-level debut as qualifiers at 2018
 Wimbledon, losing in five sets in the third round to
 eventual champions Mike Bryan and Jack Sock
- Winners of seven titles on the ATP Challenger Tour across the last two seasons

Lukasz Kubot / Marcelo Melo

When Lukasz Kubot (left) joined Marcelo Melo at No.1 in January 2018, they became the first team other than the Bryans to share the top ranking since 2012.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Indian Wells, Halle runners-up
- Winners: 2018-Sydney, Halle, Beijing, Shanghai;
 2017-Miami, Madrid, 's-Hertogenbosch, Halle,
 Wimbledon, Paris; 2016-Vienna; 2015-Vienna (their first tournament together)
- Melo claimed his first major championship at 2015 Roland Garros
- Kubot's first major title was the 2014 Aussie Open

Pierre-Hugues Herbert / Nicolas Mahut

With this year's Australian Open title, Frenchmen Pierre-Hugues Herbert (right) and Nicolas Mahut completed a career Grand Slam—the fourth of the Open Era.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Australian Open champions
- Winners: 2018-Rotterdam, Roland Garros; 2017-Rome, Montreal, Cincinnati; 2016-Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo, Queen's Club, Wimbledon; 2015-Queen's Club, US Open
- Mahut has 12 other ATP doubles titles with five different partners
- · Herbert has two other ATP doubles titles

MEN

WHEELCHAIR COMPETITION





WOMEN



Shingo Kunieda

Born: 2/21/84, Tokyo, Japan Residence: Kashiwa, Japan Plays: Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 11

Career Record: Singles 612-92; Doubles 375-109 2019 Ranking: Singles 2; Doubles 7 **2019 Record:** Singles 38-6; Doubles 13-6

Residence: Rio Tercero, Argentina Plays: Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 6

Career Record: Singles 394-135; Doubles 216-151 2019 Ranking: Singles 1; Doubles 6 2019 Record: Singles 32-6; Doubles 17-8

Gustavo Fernandez

Born: 1/20/94, Rio Tercero, Argentina

Diede de Groot

Born: 12/19/96, Woerden, Netherlands Residence: Oudewater, Netherlands Plays: Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 7

Career Record: Singles 242-58; Doubles 151-48

2019 Ranking: Singles 1; Doubles 2 2019 Record: Singles 29-4; Doubles 18-2







Stephane Houdet

Born: 11/20/70, Saint-Nazaire, France Residence: Paris, France Plays: Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 8

Career Record: Singles 581-184; Doubles 523-110

2019 Ranking: Singles 3; Doubles 1 2019 Record: Singles 24-11; Doubles 25-6

Alfie Hewett

Born: 12/6/97, Norwich, Great Britain Residence: Cantley, Great Britain Plays: Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 8

Career Record: Singles 266-100; Doubles 224-84

2019 Ranking: Singles 4; Doubles 8 2019 Record: Singles 19-7; Doubles 10-9

Yui Kamiji

Born: 4/24/94, Akashi, Japan Residence: Akashi, Japan Plays: Left-handed

Began Playing: Age 11

Career Record: Singles 390-79; Doubles 245-65

2019 Ranking: Singles 3; Doubles 4 2019 Record: Singles 29-5; Doubles 13-6 WHEELCHAIR COMPETITION



QUADS



WHEELCHAIR COMPETITION



Aniek van Koot

Born: 8/15/90, Winterswijk, Netherlands Residence: Dinxperlo, Netherlands Plays: Left-handed

Began Playing: Age 10

Career Record: Singles 501-201; Doubles 372-126

2019 Ranking: Singles 2; Doubles 1 **2019 Record:** Singles 31-9; Doubles 19-3

Dylan Alcott

Born: 12/4/90, Melbourne, Australia **Residence:** Melbourne, Australia

Plays: Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 10

Career Record: Singles 167-22; Doubles 69-22 2019 Ranking: Singles 1; Doubles 4 2019 Record: Singles 12-0; Doubles 6-0

David Wagner

Born: 3/4/74, Fullerton, California **Residence:** San Diego, California **Plays:** Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 25

Career Record: Singles 800-143; Doubles 531-93

2019 Ranking: Singles 2; Doubles 1 **2019 Record:** Singles 23-9; Doubles 16-3





Dana Mathewson

Born: 12/19/90, San Diego, California Residence: San Diego, California Plays: Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 13

Career Record: Singles 152-99; Doubles 132-86 2019 Ranking: Singles 17; Doubles 5 2019 Record: Singles 13-9; Doubles 22-7

Andy Lapthorne

Born: 10/11/90, Hammersmith, Great Britain **Residence:** Eastcote, Great Britain

Plays: Left-handed

Began Playing: Age 10

Career Record: Singles 251-118; Doubles 153-65

2019 Ranking: Singles 3; Doubles 2 **2019 Record:** Singles 14-7; Doubles 5-5

Bryan Barten

Born: 10/8/73, Hart, Michigan Residence: Tucsan, Arizona Plays: Right-handed

Began Playing: Age 22

Career Record: Singles 335-202; Doubles 231-163

2019 Ranking: Singles 10; Doubles 7 **2019 Record:** Singles 15-11; Doubles 14-8









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SUCCESS STORIES



This year's class of inductees into the International Tennis Hall of Fame share a unique bond in that all three members—Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Li Na and Mary Pierce—were two-time Grand Slam tournament singles champions, with those singles crowns coming at the Australian Open and Roland Garros.

In varying ways, the 2019 class share other bonds, too. Kafelnikov, from Russia, and Li, from China, were the first players from their nations to win Grand Slam tournaments. Kafelnikov and Pierce swept the singles and doubles titles at Roland Garros, Kafelnikov in 1996 and Pierce in 2000, when she became the first French woman in 33 years to prevail at Roland Garros. The Williams sisters have combined for nine singles and doubles sweeps since Pierce's feat, but no men have matched Kafelnikov. "It's still a mystery to me that none of the top players are giving themselves a chance to do that," said Kafelnikov, whose four major doubles championships include the 1997 US Open.

Pierce and Li had one head-to-head matchup, meeting in the third round at the 2006 US Open. Pierce tells the story now that she had no idea then who Li was, and she was stunned when Li won, 4-6, 6-0, 6-0. "I thought that was a bad loss for me," Pierce said in Newport. "Now look where we are today, both being inducted into the Hall of Fame, which is incredible. It wasn't a bad loss, and she's an amazing champion."

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IFYOU BULD

The USTA National Campus at Lake Nona has turned Orlando into the tennis capital of America. **BY JAMIE LISANTI**

They named it the USTA National Campus, but it is basically Walt Disney World for tennis.

Located at Lake Nona in Orlando, Fla., just 20 miles from Orlando's famed theme park, the 64-acre, \$63 million sprawling complex is enchanting in its own right, both in size and spectacle: 100 lighted courts, a strength and conditioning center, retail and racquet shops, a restaurant and dining area, a lodge and much more—all against the backdrop of baby blue skies and towering palm trees. But instead of the constant rumbling sounds and screams from Magic Kingdom's famous Splash Mountain log flume ride, the roar of airplanes from the bustling, nearby Orlando International Airport fills the air when flights pass intermittently overhead. And just as the world-famous Disney park draws herds of people from around the globe, the USTA National Campus has quickly become another must-see destination on Orlando's list of attractions, transforming the Theme Park Capital of the World into the tennis capital of America.

"It's just gone from 0 to 60 much faster than we ever envisioned," says USTA National Campus Chief Executive Kurt Kamperman, reflecting on



the facility's initial goals and subsequent impact on the tennis community. "We wanted to be this learning laboratory for the sport. We wanted players of all types to come here. But now we realize that our vision was actually shortsighted. The potential for the National Campus is much, much bigger."

That breadth of opportunity grew out of the campus's ability to captivate all ranks, roles and generations of the sport and concentrate them all in one place. The numbers alone are alluring.

In the two and a half years of its existence, the facility has hosted more than 250 events—spanning from juniors and USTA Pro Circuit, to international wheelchair and community—and this year, more than 400 unique colleges and universities have played there for practices, spring break matches and tournaments, including the NCAA Division I tennis championships, which will return to the campus in 2021 (and 2022 for the NCAA Division III championships). Tennis Channel, which this year began a three-year rights agreement to televise the NCAA Division I tennis championships, is

214 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org



building a permanent broadcast facility at the USTA National Campus.

After 25 years in Houston, the USPTA relocated its headquarters next door to the campus, so it could better serve and raise the standards for certified teaching professionals. USTA Florida has moved there, too. The Tennis Industry Association, in January, organized the inaugural Racquet & Paddle Sports Conference in Orlando, with a hands-on product demo experience and welcome party at the USTA National Campus. And before the US Open, the National Campus welcomed yet another tennis powerhouse into the hub: the Orlando Storm, one of two World TeamTennis expansion franchises added for the 2019 season.

According to Kamperman, nearly 300,000 visitors are expected on the National Campus grounds in 2019, including a steady 1,100 locals from the Lake Nona area each week. The complex is open seven days a week, closing only on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. "It's just an ideal environment for everyone to collaborate and get better," he says.

Despite its influence, the USTA National Campus couldn't label itself as the new "Home of American Tennis" by simply bringing together

players and professionals of every echelon to one place. In order to develop the next generation of American champions, the training facility had to deliver.

With the guidance of more than 35 teaching pros on staff at the campus, players can train on nearly every surface imaginable, both indoor and outdoor: three kinds of hard courts (DecoTurf, Plexicushion and Rebound Ace); both European Terre Davis red clay, made with materials imported from Italy, and Har-Tru green clay; the adidas Performance Center, featuring six indoor courts; and the Nemours Family Zone, with eight 36-foot and eight 60-foot courts for youths and adults to learn and play the game. The only missing surface is grass.

One of the most significant features of the complex, according to USTA Player Development General Manager Martin Blackman, is the innovation lab, which allows both players and coaches to dive deep into performance analytics, using data captured by 84 live-streaming cameras and PlaySight technology on 32 "smart" courts throughout

USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 215



Nona area are simply added bonuses. Blackman says that most pros are training on-site during the fall preseason months, including Frances Tiafoe, Madison Keys, Tommy Paul, Taylor Fritz and Whitney Osuigwe, to name a few.

Players can come to campus with their own coach, even if the USTA doesn't work directly with him or her. That's part of a change in approach and an intentional effort for a "two-way street" between the organization and the private sector coaches—something Blackman says is a "game-changer" the campus has provided for American tennis.

Former pros who fine-tuned their forehands and fitness on the grounds of Florida-based academies, such as the Saddlebrook Resort or Nick Bolletieri's—which set the standard for this type of training and infrastructure, but do not match up with the USTA National Campus in terms of magnitude and modern capabilities—are consistently impressed with the facilities and the prospective impact on tennis in America.





the campus, as well as Hawk-Eye information from ATP Tour and WTA matches.

"That all translates to being able to give our American players scouting reports at every Grand Slam (tournament), whenever they are playing a non-American, and at most of our Masters 1000 tournaments," says Blackman.

Having worked for USTA Player Development in a different capacity during the early 2000s, when the department shared a facility with the Evert Tennis Academy in Boca Raton, Fla., Blackman remembers how limited court access affected aspiring athletes. Now, he is armed with the means to combine different generations of players at the same time—without constraints—on the campus, which opens up a world of possibilities for developing skills, creating a healthy competitive environment and fostering a "Team USA" spirit among the pros.

"It's a little corny, but the campus and our footprint here gives us the ability to say, 'Yes,' in a way that we weren't able to before, in terms of collaboration and inclusivity," Blackman says, pointing to the importance of juniors training alongside collegiate players, or men and women taking the court at the same time.

It's no wonder that nearly two dozen tour players have taken up residence in Orlando to train at the USTA National Campus, while others call it their "home away from home" throughout the tennis season. The agreeable weather, transportation hub and infrastructure of the Lake

"Having that many courts and that many of the top players and coaches really does have an effect on the entirety of tennis in the [United] States," says former world No. 4 and current Miami Open Tournament Director James Blake, in admiration of Lake Nona's tennis paradise. "I was lucky to have played in a generation with Andy [Roddick], Mardy [Fish], Robby [Ginepri] and others. We had that team feeling, but it probably would have been stronger if we had that one training facility to bring us together."

On any given day at the campus, it's not unlikely to see a top pro like Keys tearing through drills on the dirt, while just a few courts away, a collegiate player looks on as Super Seniors in their 80s prepare for an upcoming tournament. While a group of veterans attends a clinic in one area, you can see a wheelchair player sweat it out in a workout and the Buddy Up Tennis for Down Syndrome athletes begin their weekly session. And that's all in a week's time. "Anyone who comes here and participates is going to be inspired," says Blackman.

Just as Walt Disney imagined a magical place with novel ideas when drawing up his theme parks, Kamperman, in the years ahead, wants to keep cooking up a rich, melting pot of players, teaching pros and innovations at the USTA National Campus—a magical mixture that will hopefully produce the next American champions.

"It's a big tennis stew and we're adding new ingredients to it every week," he says.

216 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org

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Refilling the Cups

New formats are rolled out to boost tennis's premier team events.

BY PAT MITSCH





Imagine New York's legendary Canyon of Heroes flooded with red-white-and-blue-clad fans waving their flags and craning their necks to see a float carrying tennis players.

The setting itself isn't hard to envision. Thousands of people lined the sidewalks of lower Manhattan in July to glimpse the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team celebrating its second straight FIFA World Cup title with a ticker-tape parade down Broadway. Sports patriotism remains alive and well in America, not to mention in countries around the world.

The challenge tennis has wrestled with in recent years is how to generate World Cup-level excitement for its two equivalent competitions: the men's Davis Cup and the women's Fed Cup. The International Tennis Federation, which runs both annual events, has acted on that challenge, and as the saying goes, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Both Davis Cup and Fed Cup have adopted new, World Cup-like formats in efforts to transform and elevate the competitions' popularity worldwide. The inaugural Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals will be played November 18-24 in Madrid, host city for the first two years of the 25-year, \$3 billion partnership between the ITF and investment group Kosmos, headed by Spanish soccer star Gerard Pique. Fed Cup's reform will take hold in 2020, culminating with the Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Finals, April 14-19, in Budapest, Hungary, the event's home through 2022.

Each format assembles a large pool of countries—18 in Davis Cup, 12 in Fed Cup—to slug it out over a one-week Finals competition featuring round-robin group play and then a single-elimination bracket. Compared to the traditional home-and-away formats previously utilized by

both events, spanning the length of the tennis calendar (sometimes cumbersomely), the Finals offer a more neatly packaged world championship. However, both competitions maintain virtues of the old style—home-court advantage and community outreach—by sticking to the home-and-away format for February's qualifying rounds.

"I think it's going to be awesome, personally," says first-year U.S. Davis Cup Captain Mardy Fish. "I was excited about the change [from the beginning]. I know all the players are, as well. All the ones who I've spoken to just briefly—all the way from our top player, John Isner, to the guys who haven't been able to play yet—want to play."

The U.S. earned automatic entry to this year's Davis Cup Finals by virtue of its semifinal finish in 2018, but faces a challenging round-robin stage after being drawn into a group with Canada and Italy.

Each "tie" in the Finals will consist of two best-of-three-sets singles matches, followed by a best-of-three, decisive doubles match, if necessary. The six winners in group play, plus the two top-performing second-place finishers, advance to the quarterfinal bracket to play for the title.

The new Fed Cup Finals will follow a similar format, with four groups of three playing two singles and one doubles match to advance to the semifinal bracket. The U.S., which lost to finalist Australia in the 2019 first round, will have to play in February's qualifying rounds or receive a wild card to make it to Budapest.

"I'm excited to see the impact this new format has on the competi-

Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals Dates: November 18-24, 2019

Venue: La Caja Magica City: Madrid, Spain Surface: Hard, Outdoors

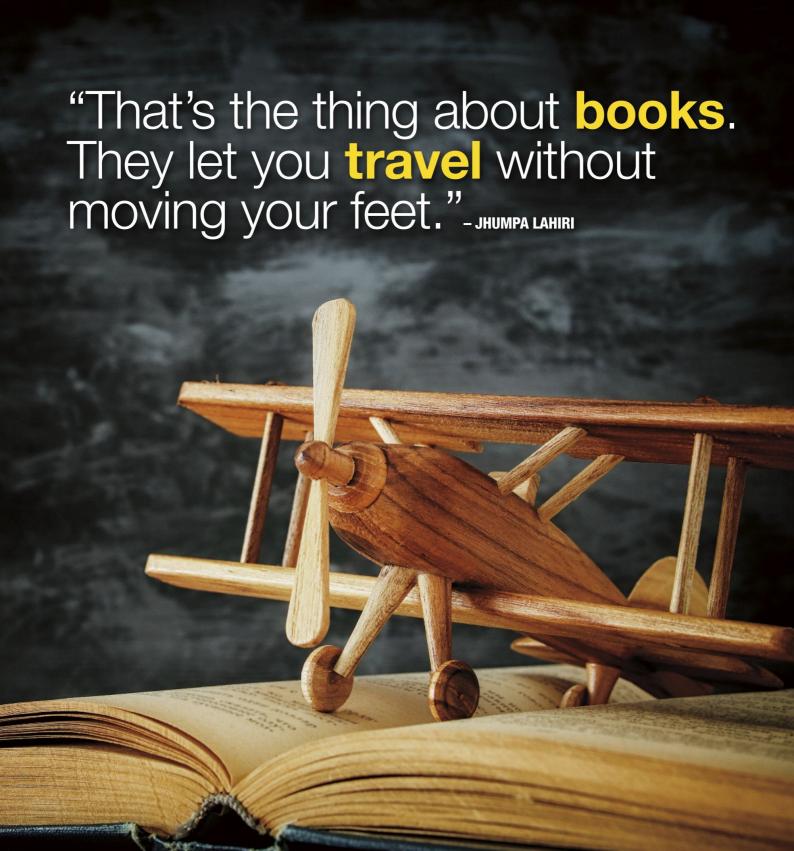
Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Finals Dates: April 14-19, 2020 Venue: Laszlo Papp Budapest

Sports Arena City: Budapest, Hungary Surface: Clay, Indoors tion over the next few years," says U.S. Fed Cup Captain Kathy Rinaldi. "Combining the traditional home-and-away style for the qualifying rounds with the one-week, 'World Cup of Tennis' Finals gives Fed Cup an event that has the potential to grow in popularity worldwide, while still allowing each country the opportunity to compete on home soil. Fed Cup deserves to thrive, and we look forward to what this new future holds."

To be sure, changes to competitions with such history and tradition—Davis Cup dating back to 1900, Fed Cup to 1963—have been met with skepticism by some. But they've also received some prominent endorsements.

"Sometimes it's a bigger risk not to take a risk," says tennis legend Billie Jean King, who was named a Fed Cup Global Ambassador alongside the Fed Cup announcement in June. "We have to keep evolving, because everybody else around us is, too."

218 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org



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Learning and Legacy

The USTA Foundation celebrates 50 years of the National Junior Tennis & Learning network.

BY ERIN MAHER

hile the world at large was experiencing change and upheaval in the late 1960s, so was the world of tennis.

After being voted down for years, Open tennis was finally approved in 1968, enabling the amateur players who had long filled the draws in the world's top tournaments to share the spotlight with professionals. The sport was poised to enter a bold new era.



Amid this changing landscape, three men—Arthur Ashe, Charlie Pasarell and Sheridan Snyder, prominent figures on the tennis court and in the tennis community—got together to discuss a unique concept: getting more kids involved in tennis.

Ashe started playing tennis as a youngster on public courts only steps from his home in Richmond, Va. He made his major tournament debut at the U.S. National Championships in 1959 and, three years later, began attending UCLA on a tennis scholarship. He roomed at UCLA with Bruins teammate Pasarell, who hailed from Puerto Rico and had been a star on the junior circuit.

The two made their mark in collegiate tennis, earning All-America honors for the first time in 1963. Ashe went on to win the NCAA Division I singles and doubles championships in 1965, and Pasarell captured the same titles the following year. Both went on to have highly successful careers on the pro tour.

Like Ashe and Pasarell, Snyder was a top collegiate player. A member of the University of Virginia men's team from 1955 to 1958, he played No. 1 in singles and doubles. Snyder did not play tennis professionally after college, but he remained active in the sport, running tour-level events, including the Nassau Bowl Tennis Tournament, a grass court event in Glen Cove, N.Y. It was there, in 1962, that Ashe and Pasarell met Snyder and developed a friendship.

All three men were at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., for the 1969 US Open and, one day, arranged to have lunch together at the US Open Club, a new restaurant underneath Forest Hills Stadium that featured picture windows overlooking the center courts. Ashe was the US Open's defending men's singles champion, Pasarell was one of the top American contenders and Snyder was a special adviser to the tournament.

"They had an interesting challenge for me," Snyder recalls. "They said, 'Sherry, you have developed a lot of new companies and new products through your business activities. Why don't you try creating something new for people?"

The conversation that followed marked the beginning of the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network, which would transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of youth for years to come.

"I thought," Snyder says, "'Gee, wouldn't it be good if we could use all these public tennis courts to create a bunch of new tennis players throughout the country by putting together a program that was geared for youngsters between the ages of 8 and 18?""

Snyder set off to test his concept. He loaded 200 used tennis racquets into his car and headed to the Harlem River Park public tennis courts on 186th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in New York City. A local preacher whom Snyder had contacted encouraged 25 boys and girls to attend the first session. The pilot program proved to be a success, with Snyder tailoring it to make tennis easier and more appealing to the children. Instead of the traditional scoring method, he implemented a more natural system for the kids to pick up: 1 to 15 points for young players, 1 to 21 for the older participants, with service changes after every five points.

Additionally, Snyder brightened up the strictly traditional all-white tennis attire. "I knew that wasn't going to work," he says. "So I decided that we were going to have colorful uniforms that [the kids] could relate to, like basketball players and football players."

Snyder became interested in establishing NJTLs at multiple sites and leveraged the many contacts he had made in the tennis world to start building up the program. One of his moves was to hire Gene Scott, a top American player who also practiced law and had a growing media presence, writing for *The New York Times* and *Sports Illustrated*, to help promote what was being done. In a brief period, Snyder launched programs in public parks in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Stamford, Conn., to go along with New York City. Then he returned to Ashe and Pasarell with a proposition.

"When Charlie and Arthur challenged me to find a program for kids," Snyder recounts, "I

220 2019 US OPEN USOpen.org

said, 'OK, guys, I've done what you told me to do; now you've gotta help me. You've gotta get up here and promote NJTL for the kids of color and the Hispanic kids because that's the new population we're going after.' And they did. They were a part of NJTL and spoke for it. They spoke to it everywhere they were in tennis."

By 1971, 50 chapters of NJTL had been established throughout the U.S., reaching more than 25,000 youth annually in public parks. As the program grew, its mission evolved, going from merely attracting more children to the game of tennis to opening opportunities for low-income, mostly black and Hispanic youth through tennis, and using the sport as a vehicle to keep those kids engaged in education.

With each passing year, NJTL continued to expand, thanks to dedicated individuals across the country who shared the vision of Ashe, Pasarell and Snyder.

Barbara Wynne, for example, had already been running a similar youth tennis program, called "Riverside Upswing," for a few years in Indianapolis when she met Ashe in Chicago around 1970.

"He'd already started [NJTL] in New York," recalls Wynne, "and I went there and decided that whatever he was doing, I would support. I really admired him, and to this day, I dedicate everything of my tennis work to the late Arthur Ashe. So that's how I got an NJTL started. We were on court before the program—NJTL—happened, but I couldn't imagine a better group to emulate and become more like than theirs."

Lewis "Skip" Hartman was a tennis club owner and developer in New York City who was asked to help NJTL expand its reach in the 1970s. He took the NJTL programming—which had a minimum requirement to offer the program at least three hours a day, three days a week for six weeks—and sponsored a program at his indoor club in the Bronx. He continued to offer it for free or at a nominal price at every club he opened thereafter. He also grew the program in 55 public parks and six public school sites around the city's five boroughs by 1975. Today, his original NJTL, now called New York Junior Tennis & Learning (NYJTL), is the largest nonprofit youth tennis and education program in the nation, serving 85,000 K-12 New York City youth per year.

"When I talk to someone about NJTL and try to explain what it was," says Hartman, "all I have to do is say that it was co-founded by Arthur Ashe, and right away, they have a sense of what it was."

In 1984, when NJTL grew to 100 chapters and programs nationwide, reaching 100,000 youth, it moved under the legal control of the USTA. Supported by the USTA Foundation, the NJTL curricula expanded from on-court tennis drills to academic-focused programs and more. Expanded initiatives for NJTL saw the creation of scholarships for participants, an ACE curriculum, Excellence teams, an annual USTA Arthur Ashe Essay Contest and Arthur Ashe Kids' Day at the US Open.

David Dinkins, who served as mayor of New York City from 1990 to 1993, experienced first-hand how important the program is to kids after befriending Ashe and learning more about the program. Dinkins became so involved with NJTL that he even hosted a dinner for NJTL essay contest winners at his home.

Among NJTL's notable alumni are Frances Tiafoe, a rising young American who developed his game at the Junior Tennis Champions Center in Maryland; Serena Williams and Venus Williams, who learned how to play tennis on public courts in Compton, Calif., with the LA84 NJTL program; and former world Top 5 player James Blake, who played at the Harlem Junior Tennis and Education program in New York City.

Today, NJTL includes a robust 300 chapters around the country, reaching 180,000 youth per year. Fifty years after the program began, its success stories continue to be written every day.

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This year marks the 50th anniversary of the USTA Foundation's flagship program, the National Junior Tennis and Learning network (NJTL). To commemorate this milestone, 50 bricks and pavers are available in the new Celebration Court on the Avenue of Aces.

Fifty percent of the net proceeds from the 50th anniversary Celebration Court will support Arthur Ashe's legacy at the University of California–Los Angeles (UCLA) through the Arthur Ashe Jr. Scholarship Fund and the Arthur Ashe Legacy Fund. Your support will go a long way toward enhancing the lives of the young people who participate in NJTL programming nationwide. Purchase a paver and help pave the way to a better tomorrow for all of them.

Your history can be their future. Purchase a paver today.



USOpen.org 2019 US OPEN 221

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First Year of the Future

BY MARK PRESTON

When Naomi Osaka's service winner caromed off Serena Williams's racquet on match point in last year's US Open women's final, the Japanese star lay claim to her first Grand Slam singles crown. Most certainly, Osaka's convincing 6-2, 6-4 triumph over the game's all-time greatest was a marvelous milestone in its own right, but now, one year removed, it wouldn't be unfair to say that Osaka's big US Open finish might also be considered a start, that her magnificent individual milestone might also have been a larger demarcation line heralding the beginning of a new era in this sport. In hindsight, that final

serve might also have served notice that the times, they are a-changin'.

The year that has passed from that time until this time has been an intriguing one in tennis, to say the least, with a host of exciting new talents coming to the fore in both the women's and men's games. For the first time in the history of the WTA tour, the first 18 tournaments of the season were won by 18 different players, with 10 women capturing the first title of their careers this year. On the sport's biggest stages, three different women—shockingly none of them named Williams—have won the season's first three majors, with 21-year-old Osaka finishing on top Down Under, Ashleigh Barty, 23, triumphing on the terra battue of Roland Garros and claiming the No. 1 rank-

Wimbledon win.

Conversely, 37-year-old Serena Williams's quest for a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles crown has now thrice been halted in major finals, her lopsided 6-2, 6-2 loss to Halep on the lawns of London the latest setback for the all-time great in her pursuit of singular greatness. Not since the 2017 Australian Open has Serena stood alone at the finish of a major fortnight. Venus Williams, now 39, the other half of the sensational sister act responsible for ushering in the previous new era in this sport, has likewise not been to a Grand Slam tournament final since 2017, and her first-round Wimbledon loss to 15-year-old American Coco Gauff stands out as another emphatic exclamation point on the proclamation of a future furiously approaching.

ing, and Simona Halep, 27, running away with an especially impressive

Now, many would argue that the men's game is an altogether different animal, given the tremendously talented triumvirate perched in its penthouse. But the view from just one floor down is not altogether distinguishable from what it is on the women's side. Indeed, 19 different men captured the first 19 events on the ATP Tour this year, and through late July, 13 players had taken their first title in 2019.

And while 2019 Aussie Open and Wimbledon champ Novak Djokovic, 2019 Roland Garros winner Rafael Nadal and 2019 Wimbledon finalist Roger Federer are comfortably ensconced in the rankings' top three spots, only two of the next seven rapidly ascending Top 10 talents came into the US Open over the age of 25. Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, ranked No. 6 and the youngest of that group, turned 21 on August 12-

seven months after he'd ousted Federer in the fourth round

of the Australian Open and three months after knocking out Nadal—on clay—in the semifinals at Madrid. Those two wins completed a Hall

> of Fame hat trick for the Greek, who also took down Djokovic in 2018 at the

Canadian Open.

Djokovic, Nadal and Federer have combined to win the past 11 majors. In fact, there's not been a first-time men's champion at a major since Marin Cilic took home the hardware at the 2014 US Open. Most certainly, the Djokovic-Federer Wimbledon final this summer was one for the ages. But even those who produce ones for the ages eventually age, and Djokovic, 32, Nadal, 33, and Federer, 38, who together combine for 54 Slam sin-

themselves eagerly pursued by what may be the most deeply talented troupe they've ever attempted to outpace.

gles crowns, also combine for 103 years, and now find

Consider a few lines from the respective resumes of that 25-andunder crowd: Dominic Thiem, 25, knocked out Djokovic before losing to Nadal in the final of this year's French Open. Earlier this season, the Austrian beat Federer to win Indian Wells. Alexander Zverev, 22, beat both Diokovic and Federer to win the ATP Finals crown at the end of 2018, while Karen Khachanov, 23, ousted 2009 US Open champ Juan Martin del Potro to reach his first major quarterfinal at Roland Garros this spring. Daniil Medvedev, 23, beat both Tsitsipas and Djokovic at this year's Monte Carlo event.

Certainly, the favorites remain favorites as the sport's spotlight turns to the 2019 US Open. The men's Big Three and the women's GOAT still figure as front-runners in Flushing this year. But just as certainly, this first year of the future has showcased scores of impressive talents—all completely capable of making their marks on this great stage.

And that figures to make the present pretty special.



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