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Australian Open 2016 preview

Australian Open Men's Singles (18 January - 31 January 2016)

Lleyton Hewitt's farewell on home soil

- Australia's last male Grand Slam champion, Lleyton Hewitt (AUS), will appear in his last career tournament having received a wild card. His best result in Melbourne is reaching the 2005 Australian Open final, losing to Marat Safin (RUS) in four sets.
- Hewitt will compete at the Australian Open for a record 20th time (1997-2016). Fabrice Santoro (ITA) follows with 18 participations between 1991 and 2010.
- In 1997, aged 15, Hewitt became the youngest player to qualify in the 111-year-old-history of the Australian Open.
- This will be Hewitt's 66th Grand Slam participation, third-most in the Open era after
- Santoro (70) and Roger Federer (SUI, 67 including the 2016 Australian Open).
- Hewitt holds the record for most five-setters played at Grand Slams in the Open era. He has played 45 five-setters in his Grand Slam career so far, winning 26 of them (L19). Only Pete Sampras has won more (W29-L9).

Novak Djokovic aiming for sixth Australian Open

- Defending champion Novak Djokovic (SRB) is aiming to become the second player all-time to win the Australian Open for a sixth time, after Roy Emerson (AUS) who won six titles between 1961 and 1967.
- Djokovic has lost only one of his last 33 matches at the Australian Open, a five-set defeat to Stanislas Wawrinka (SUI) in the 2014 quarterfinal.
- Djokovic is gunning for his 11th career Grand Slam crown, equalling Rod Laver (AUS) and Björn Borg (SWE) in fifth place all-time behind Roger Federer (17), Pete Sampras (USA, 14), Rafael Nadal (ESP, 14) and Emerson (12).
- Djokovic prevailed at the last two Grand Slams, Wimbledon and the US Open in 2015, and can become the first player winning three successive Slams since his own three peat of the 2011 Wimbledon, 2011 US Open and 2012 Australian Open.
- The Serb can reach his 19th Grand Slam final, equalling Ivan Lendl (USA, 19) in third place in the Open era. Only Federer (27) and Nadal (20) have reached more.
- Djokovic can become the third player in the Open era to reach five successive Grand Slam finals after Federer (10, 2005-2007; 8, 2008-2010) and Nadal (5, 2011-2012).
- The Serb has reached the final in 16 of the last 21 Grand Slams he has taken part in.
- Djokovic can reach a 29th Grand Slam semifinal in order to surpass Lendl (28) for third place behind Federer (38) and Jimmy Connors (USA, 31) in the Open era.
- Djokovic has reached the quarterfinal in his last 26 Grand Slam participations, since a third round defeat at the 2009 French Open. Only Federer has had a longer streak in the Open era: 36 between 2004 and 2013.
- The Serb has reached the final in his last 16 ATP tournaments, winning 12 of those. The first tournament in this streak was his win at the 2015 Australian Open. The last time Djokovic failed to reach an ATP final was in Doha a year ago, losing to Ivo Karlovic (CRO) in the quarterfinal.



Roger Federer poised to end Grand Slam drought

- Roger Federer has won a record 17 Grand Slam titles. He has won Wimbledon seven times, the US Open five times, the Australian Open four times and the French Open once.
- Federer has won three Grand Slams more than the next most prolific Major champions: Pete Sampras (14) and Rafael Nadal (14).
- His last Grand Slam win came at Wimbledon in 2012, making it his only win in his last 23 Grand Slam participations. In 19 appearances prior to this streak he won 12 titles.
- Federer can win a Grand Slam 12 years and 209 days after winning his first (2003 Wimbledon), breaking the men's Open era record span of most years between first and last Grand Slam victory. The men's record currently belongs to Sampras (11 years and 364 days, 1990 US Open - 2002 US Open).
- Federer has reached 27 Grand Slam finals, having won a record 17 (L10). Only Ivan Lendl has lost more Grand Slam finals in the Open era with 11 defeats.
- Federer will be 34 years and 176 days old on the day of the final and could become the second oldest winner of the Australian Open in the Open Era, after Ken Rosewall (AUS, 37-067 in 1972 and 36-073 in 1971).
- Federer will make his 67th appearance in a Grand Slam, which has him chasing only Fabrice Santoro's 70 participations.
- The Swiss has appeared in an Open era record 64 successive Grand Slam tournaments, after missing out on the 1999 US Open.
- A win in the third round would make Federer the first male player to reach 300 Grand Slam match wins.

Andy Murray hoping to end Australian Open curse

- Andy Murray (GBR) is eyeing his ninth Grand Slam final in order to close in on the all-time record by a British player. Fred Perry (GBR) holds the record with 10 appearances in finals.
- Perry is also the last British player to win the Australian Open men's singles crown. In 1934, he defeated Jack Crawford (AUS) in the final.
- Andy Murray's four final appearances in Melbourne all ended in defeat. In 2010, he lost to Roger Federer and in 2011, 2013 and 2015 he was halted by Novak Djokovic.
- Murray has the worst track record in Australian Open finals in the entire history of this championship.
- Only one player has lost more than four Australian Open finals. John Bromwich (AUS) lost five finals between 1937 and 1949, but he also won two times in that span.
- Andy Murray has won seven of his last 12 hardcourt finals, losing on the other five occasions to Djokovic.
- Murray won both of his Grand Slam titles after beating Djokovic in the final - 2012 US Open and 2013 Wimbledon.
- In total, Murray met Djokovic 13 times in an ATP final, most of all players, winning six of them. He met Roger Federer eight times (3 wins) and Rafael Nadal four times (3 wins).
- At the last Grand Slam, the 2015 US Open, Murray was eliminated in the fourth round, the first time in 19 Grand Slam appearances he failed to reach the quarterfinals.